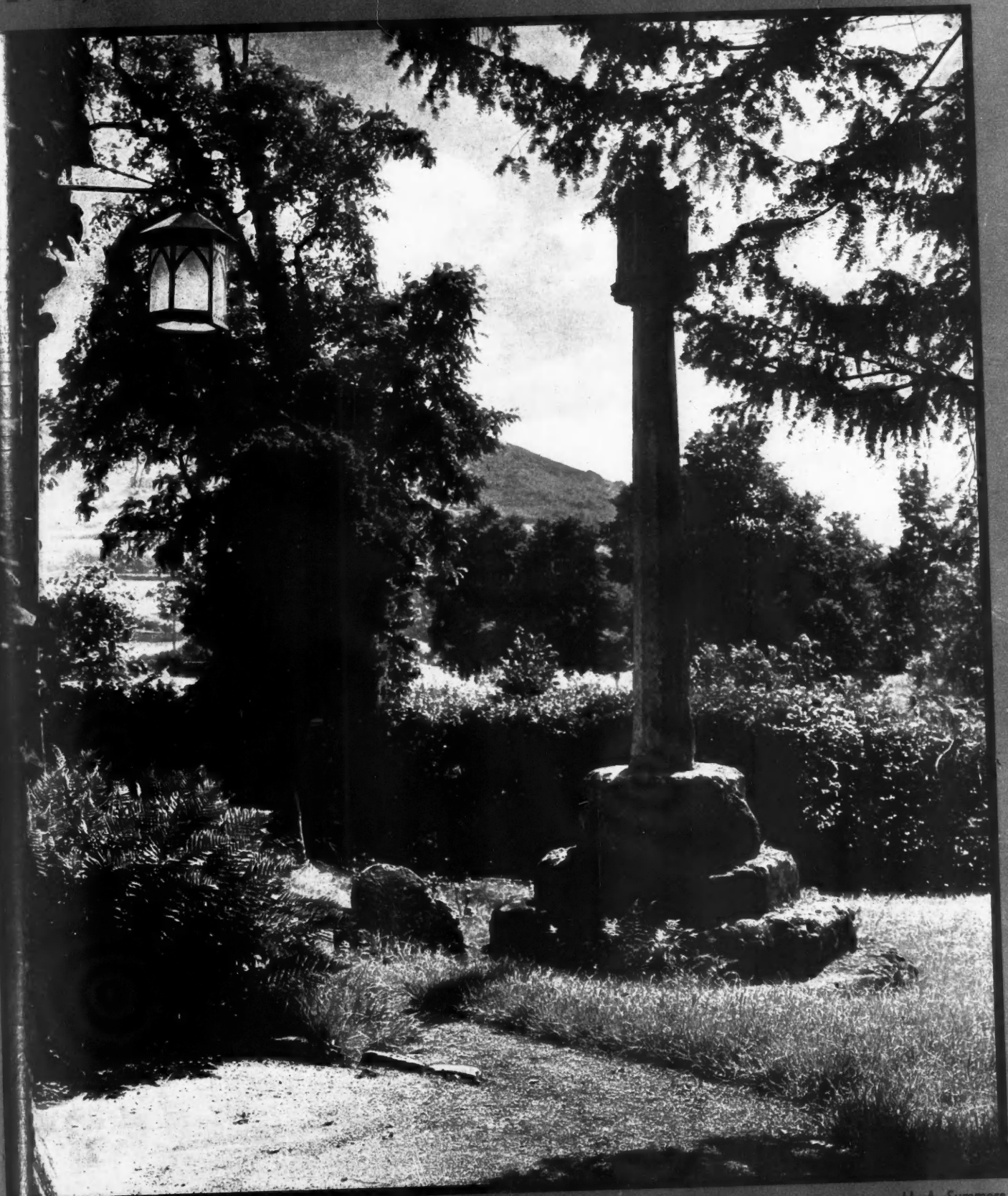


AUG 7 1945

PRINCE CHARLIE'S COUNTRY COUNTRY LIFE

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JULY 20, 1945

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H. A. Summers

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GARDEN SCHEME. Do not miss visiting the many gardens that have kindly promised to open under the Queen's Institute of District Nursing Gardens Scheme during the coming Spring and Summer for the benefit of district nursing. Lists can be obtained from the GARDENS SECRETARY, 57, Lower Belgrave Street, London, S.W.1.

IS YOUR GARDENER OVERWORKED? We can help you to help him. Write for details of our range of horticultural supplies, which includes hand, wheel and power-driven tools of every description; tying materials, fertilisers, etc. Over 3,000 regular clients throughout Britain. Please let us know your requirements: our services are at your disposal.—J. T. LOWE LTD., Longham, Wimbome, Dorset.

MOTOR AND HAND LAWN MOWERS Wanted. Send particulars and price required to DALE, JONES & CO., 81, Little Albany Street, London, N.W.1, Motor Mower Specialists. Mowers overhauled, repaired, exchanged.

PAVING STONE. Quantity Old London York rectangular Paving Stone for sale.—WILLIS, 24, Stillehall Gardens, Chiswick. Tel.: 3358.

RHODODENDRONS. Wanted. Amateurs' surplus plants, species or hybrids; up to 10 ft. high. Prices must be far below commercial figures.—Box 56.

SECATEURS, well made, 12/6; ladies' size, 11/6. Postage and packing 1/- extra. Money refunded if dissatisfied.—E. REES, 35, Strawberry Hill Road, Twickenham, Middlesex.

VEGETABLE AND FLOWER SEEDS OF QUALITY—we do the experimenting, not you!—W. J. UNWIN, LTD., Seedsmen, Histon, Cambs.

SITUATIONS WANTED

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HEAD WORKING GARDENER (45). Sound practical knowledge and 20 years' experience all branches. Energetic, conscientious. Highly recommended by present employer (lease expiring).—Box 40.

HEAD GARDENER or Manager of Market Garden, seeks post. Competent to take full responsibility. Wide experience all branches.—J. J. SMITH, The Garden House, Chevening, Sevenoaks.

LADY SECRETARY, shorthand-typist wishes post in South. Would take interest in poultry. Good home essential. Free shortly.—Box 67.

OFFICER'S WIDOW requires situation; country lover; car driver; capable; willing.—Box 74.

OFFICE or position of Trust on gentleman's farm, wanted by Austrian refugee. Experience: 49. Agricultural studies and three years' W.A.E.C. Well-bred boy, 14. Wife excellent cook-housekeeper.—Please write: Box 32.

PRINTER'S MACHINE, MINDER or Comp. Machinist; all-round knowledge. Two-revolution, wharves and platens; automatics, half-tone, colour process, etc. Good references. Suit private office.—Box 34.

RESIDENT AGENT desires position, married, several years' experience managing large mixed farms, pedigree and commercial cattle; Income Tax, accounts.—Box 58.

TWO GENTLEWOMEN require post of trust; wide experience. Would like entire charge of house of gentleman or manage small hotel or club. Very good cooking. Suggestions welcomed.—Box 21.

SITUATIONS VACANT

Subject to Government Restrictions

NEEDED, urgently, someone energetic (and experienced in horticulture if possible), to save highly productive garden from ruin. Produce sold; much fruit, poultry, bees; interesting work. Housewife Owner can no longer cope unaided. Hospitality and every comfort offered and all expenses.—DR. STANTON, Far Lays, Tanworth-in-Arden, Warwickshire.

WANTED

ADDERS, CALCULATORS, TYPEWRITERS and SAFES, etc., wanted for CASH. Highest prices.—TAYLORS, 73, Chancery Lane, London, Holborn 3793.

ADVERTISER desires copies of "The Sphere" from July, 1939, to June, 1943.—Write, 23, Wool Road, S.W.20.

APPAREL. Highest prices returned for discarded Lounge Suits, Overcoats, Furs, Clothing of all kinds. Private owners may send with safety to Dept. C.L., JOHNSON, DYMOND AND SON, LTD., Auctioneers (Est. 1783), 24-25, Great Queen Street, London, W.C.2.

BOOKS. £250 cash offered for fine sets of any of the following bird books by John Gould: "The Birds of Australia," 8 vols.; "The Birds of Asia," 7 vols.; "The Birds of Europe," 5 vols.; "The Birds of Great Britain," 5 vols.; or "Humming Birds," 6 vols.—HILL, 12, Saville Row, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

WANTED

A GOOD COUNTRY HOME wanted for a Macaw, with someone who understands parrots. £20 or offers over. Seen near London.—Box 20.

BOOKS about Porcelain and Pottery. Collector will pay good prices for same.—PIKE, 44, Richmond Park Avenue, Bournemouth.

CARPETS AND RUGS of distinction purchased. Best prices given.—PEREZ, Carpet Specialists, 168, Brompton Road, S.W.3, Ken. 9879. (Between Harrods and Brompton Oratory), and 97, New Bond St., W.1. MAYFAIR 7008.

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FARMER wants useful Ejector Gun. Also quality Plus Four Suits; 6 ft. slim figure.—Box 59.

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HOUSEBOAT wanted to purchase. Thames, South or South-West England. Minimum two cabins, one saloon. Must be ready for immediate use.—FOWLER, Peninver, By Campbellton, Argyllshire.

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MISSISS MAN AND SHACKLETON pay high prices for Linen, Curtains, Blankets, etc., Silver and Plated goods, Jewellery of every description, also Ladies', Gentlemen's and Children's discarded or misfit garments and Furs. Offer or cheque by return for consignment sent. Est. 1890.—FERN HOUSE, NORBITON, SURREY.

MOSS BROS. & CO., LTD. will pay very satisfactory prices for good quality Saddlery, Brides, Saddles (not side saddles), etc., in good condition.—20, King St., Covent Garden, W.C.2.

N.B.—YOU GAIN by selling your car to a large firm of repute. Eustace Watkins, Ltd., pay high prices for good modern cars, all makes.—Details to EUSTACE WATKINS, LTD., Chelsea Manor Street, S.W.3, or 'phone: Flaxman 8181.

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READER URGENTLY APPEALS for a Motor Car; in good condition. Willing to pay good price.—Particulars: Box 60.

SEA ROD AND REEL wanted, about 8 ft., split cane preferred.—Particulars, TEBB, Whitton, Ludlow.

SHOT GUNS, WANTED TO PURCHASE. Best PRICES paid for any kind of 12b. Send for inspection; immediate return if not acceptable.—CHARLES RIGGS & CO. (proprietors of E. M. Reilly & Co., est. 100 years), 22, Wormwood Street, London, E.C.2. Write for Gun and Crop Protection lists.

SPECIALIST Electrical Installations and Lighting Plants; old plants purchased; new or second-hand supplied. House and Farm Electrical Equipment.—H. H. HYWOOD, Electrical Engineer, 40, Coram Street, London, W.C.1. TERMINUS 8547.

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£2500 PAID FOR LOW-MILEAGE recent Rolls-Royce. A Lagonda drop-head coupe considered, providing price not excessive. No agents.—Write only: COLONEL O'DONOVAN, 24, Charnaudan Road, Worthing.

WANTED, old lustre pottery jugs and goblets; quaint pottery figures, animals and boxes; old glass paperweights and books on collecting subjects.—DR. JOHN, 4, St. Johns Road, Newport, Mon.

WANTED, well-cut, light, warm Swager Coat, navy or off-white. Preferably raglan sleeves. Height, 5 ft. 6 ins. Medium build.—Box 2.

WANTED, Lady's Tweed Country Coat. Light weight. Length, 41 ins. Please state price.—Box 1.

WANTED, Reciprocating Hedge-trimmer Attachment for use with 220-volt D.C. motor generator.—Box 997.

WANTED, B.S.A. Air Rifle, in good condition.—Box 11.

WE are open to buy second-hand Fur Coats in Mink, Ermine and other good-class Furs; highest prices paid. Write or phone for appointment.—W. GOODKIND & SONS LTD., 52, Brook Street, Mayfair, W.1. (opposite Claridges). Mayfair 1093.

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AN S.S. "100" SPORTS ROADSTER, 13,000 miles only. Perfect car.—LIGHT CAR CO., Derby. Telephone: 3658.

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FOR SALE

A 1939 HUDSON, 28-8 CHASSIS, fitted with touring car body, by Coachcraft, Ltd. Turquoise Blue. Speedo, reading 5,400. Not reg. since December, 1939. One of the most beautiful cars. £2,500.—SYD ABRAMS, LTD., 141, Waterloo Road, Manchester 8. Broughton 2254-5.

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A SILVER STEEL DOG STOVE, Adam design. Serpentine front, fluted and chased. Main pattern on protruding tapering support. Stove mounted by vases; 30in. wide; as new. £22. Illustration sent.—RUSSELL, 17 Boyn H. Ave., Maldenhead.

BROWN LEATHER VALISE 20in. x 15in. x 9in., two inside compartments, good traps, condition excellent. £5. Also black Gladstone; needs repair. £1.—DEMAUS, Redgate, Epsom, Surrey.

CARAVAN (Trailer), Riverside, 16 ft. Two double berths; built-in furniture. Main electricity and Calor gas; flush w.c.; tent fully furnished; as new. On lovely site. Let rent. Price £375. View any time.—LEONARD, Book-stall, Henley-on-Thames.

DENNIS MOTOR MOWER for sale. 1-inch. Just overhauled. What offers?—STUTON, Cromer, near Stevenage.

EXTREMELY POWERFUL GERMAN BROC-LARS (believe Zeiss), £50; individual eyepiece focusing; haze correction; meridian scale; through lens; collimated to ordinance standards; overall 8 1/2 in.; optically perfect, fine condition, strap. Price 45 guineas or exchange miniature camera. Unusual Argentina Gent's Wrist-watch, by Girard Perregaux; 17 jewels; anti-magnetic. Swiss movement; face gilt and satin chrome; chrome water-tight case; quite new; ultra-modern design; suitable 21st. Price 20 guineas.—ROSSALL, Oban, Argy., Cheshire.

GOLF BALLS. One dozen Silver King, 1 dozen Falcon North British. All new; unused.—Offers to: SECRETARY, Homeleigh Club, Padworth Everard, Cambridge.

LADY'S GOLF CLUBS; matched set. Spalding 3 woods, 8 irons steel shafts; hardly used. Bag, umbrella, tees. Seen 45 Fulbrook Road, Cambridge. Telephone: 4571. What offers?

LOVELY FRENCH-CUT EVENING DRESS, pre-war lame black with silver thread; matching cape, trimmed real monkey. Medium size; unused; no coupons. Nearest £18. Also blue Fox Stole, £5.—Box 63.

NEWMARKET BOOTS, size 8; no coupons. Worn once. Perfect condition. 8 Guineas.—Box 71.

NICELY PRINTED NOTEPAPER, 47 per 100 sheets. Postcards, 59 per 100.—A. TOMLINS, 26, Athelstan Road, Bournemouth.

NO COUPONS. Morning Coat, Striped Trousers, 5 ft. 9 in. £10. 40 Chest. Dinner Jacket, Trousers, £10. Pretty pale blue Evening Dress, stock size. £8.—Box 64.

PHOTOS and Picture Postcards. Photos: Rhodes 11 large mounted, Cyprus 21, Italy and Swiss 34. Postcards: Cyprus, India, France, Italy, Germany, Holland, 382. Also Lantern Slides, 13 Cyprus, 12 Swiss Alps. Entire, £5.50 near offer.—Box 57.

ROVER, 14 h.p. 5-seater Saloon. Blue-grey 1935 model; 22,000 miles. Complete and in first-class order. Five tyres; new battery included. never charged. One owner only; very carefully driven and tended. Price £600.—Apply: MAJOR STANLEY CLARKE, Lanesborough, Cheltenham.

ROLLS-ROYCE 1937 Phantom III Razor Edge. Black Sports Saloon by H. J. Mulliner. Grey leather upholstery. Beautifully appointed; unmarked; immaculate condition. Carefully stored. £2,650.—Box 72.

SELECT FIRST-CLASS Table Linen for sale. Cyprus, hand-made point (de Venise) and drawn-thread work. Only those requiring best quality need apply.—Particulars from: A. FLATO, 415, Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow.

SPORTING OIL PAINTING CANVAS, 30in. by 24in.; framed. Noted racehorse, T. Lott up in colours on Newmarket Heath.—1 other particulars.—Box 57.

SPORTING SECTION OF A LIBRARY, 18 vols. authenticated Sporting Books, covering 150 years' racing, hunting, boxing, shooting, fishing, mainly first and early, including Nardos, Howitts, Beckfords, Egans, Gambado, etc.; complete set Bloodstock Breeders Review, vols. 1 to 26. Another set General Stud Book, vols. 1 to 26. All good bindings. Offered as a collection, only, not individually. Price 500 guineas. Librarian.—Box 33.

"THE MIGHTY KINGDOMS OF JAPAN AND SIAN" with quaint chart 1671. Original binding. Good condition; rare. By Francis Aaron and Joost Schorten. What offers?—Box 3.

THREE REALLY BEAUTIFUL Scottish landscapes. 1. D. Cameron. 2. D. Sherrin. 3. S. Percy; all signed; in magnificent gift frame, £40 each. Photographs on approval.—Box 65.

TO HUNTING PEOPLE, Six-year-old Bay Mare, 15.2 hh., middle heavyweight; sound, exceptionally nice temperament and smooth ride; light mouth and bold with hounds. On full season will make her first-class. For sale I am going abroad.—ALEXANDER, Chute 1, West, Andover.

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WHITE CHAMOIS LEATHER suitable for glove-making or lining 5 feet skins; 1 skin: 10-3 skins, 27/6, post free.—HOWARD, Particles, Winscombe Way, Stanmore.

ZEISS BINOCULARS, Deltrintum, 8 x 30. Exceptionally powerful; in leather case; as new. Nearest offer to £40.—Box 68.

OTHER PROPERTY AND AUCTIONS
ADVERTISING PAGE 94.

COUNTRY LIFE

Vol. XCVIII. No. 2531

JULY 20, 1945



Harlip

VISCOUNTESS JOCELYN

Viscountess Jocelyn, wife of Lieutenant-Commander Viscount Jocelyn, R.N., only surviving son of the Earl and Countess of Roden, was, before her marriage in 1937, Miss Clodagh Kennedy, and is the third daughter of the late Mr. Edward Kennedy and of Mrs. Kennedy, of Bishopscourt, Straffan, Ireland

COUNTRY LIFE

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SPECULATION IN HOUSES

N OBODY can be better aware than readers of COUNTRY LIFE that there are many houses the value of which to an individual buyer, or even to the community at large, is not to be measured in floor space, dwelling accommodation, cost of building, number of modern conveniences, or any of the other considerations to which, in assessing its worth to a home-hungry nation, a granite-hearted Government Inspector might be expected to confine us. They will find no difficulty, then, in agreeing with the Chartered Surveyors' Institution that the mere taking of a profit on the sale of a house is not enough to induce the majority of owners to leave their houses, or that, the value of "out-dated types" of houses having often no relation to building or replacement costs, the linking of their selling prices to a "cost-of-building index" would be a pure irrelevance. At the same time, we all of us know how desperately in need of houses the nation is and would cordially agree with the Law Society that whatever is possible should be done to prevent speculation in house property that is detrimental to the public and particularly to those returning from the Forces.

The first question to decide is to what extent such speculation is prevalent. The Chartered Surveyors, who have a professional knowledge of the matter, suggest that most sales of houses to-day are for occupation by the buyers, and that present prices are not greatly in excess of those obtaining before 1930. At the same time, the experience of individual members of the public does not seem to confirm this view and as long ago as October, 1943, public opinion was so much disturbed with regard to possibilities of exploitation that the Government announced that consultations were being held with a view to some form of price control. Last March the Morris Committee was appointed to consider any possible methods that might be adopted, and they are now said to be about to recommend a control based on a percentage increase on the 1939 value and made retrospective for a specified period. Buyers who, during this period, had paid more than the controlled prices would have a right to recover the excess from the sellers. The complications involved in such a proposal will be obvious to anybody who has a practical knowledge of the way in which the purchase of house property is generally financed. The seller's market for housing being what it is, there seem to be no adequate legal means of preventing him from taking advantage of the purchaser, and it comes as an even greater shock to be told by the President of the Law Society that his colleagues "do not think there is any practical way of controlling prices of houses without creating unfairness or even injustice."

It seems, on the other hand, that the effect

of fixing a present or future ceiling for prices might have most damaging effects simply by adding to the list of forbidden transactions and creating another black market based on a system of "key-money." The fact that there is so much doubt as to the present extent of exploitation shows, of course, the value of publicity in checking such abuses, and the clearer the facts can be made the stronger and more wholesome presumably will be the force of public opinion. Meanwhile it may perhaps not be found impossible to link a temporary price control with the system of controlled rents and revising tribunals recommended by the Ridley Committee. Before this could be done, however, rent control itself must be adopted as a general principle by legislation.

MOON TRACERY

*THE moon has risen now and made
A pattern here of light and shade*

*The garden wall, the garden gate
In dark design and intricate.*

*A beech tree etched in easy grace,
Flowers and leaves like silver lace,*

*A checkered court, a seat of stone,
A dove-cote on the lawn alone,*

*A lily on the lake—a swan—
Thus the moon traces and sails on.*

PHYLLIS HOWELL.

THE COUNTY OF LONDON PLAN

SINCE its publication in 1943, the County of London Plan has been under discussion with the Government Departments and local authorities concerned, leading to various amendments; and the whole project has been awaiting the full measure of legislation withheld by the Coalition, particularly as regards compensation and betterment in respect of controlled land use. Pending full statutory powers, and forestalling the building applications that will shortly be made in rapidly increasing numbers, the Town Planning Committee has submitted to the L.C.C. a report on the present state of the Plan and a series of resolutions confirming in principle its chief proposals, as a guide to local authorities and others, to the policy and intentions of the Town Planning Authority of the county. These resolutions re-affirm the main points of the Plan as to main roads, markets, precincts, density of population, redistribution of industry, the provision of additional open spaces, and some measure of architectural control of important streets. Interesting specific points that emerge are the fact that the Ministry of War Transport is in favour of the main "A" ring road, linking the main termini, having arterial status as recommended in the Royal Academy Plan but not by the L.C.C.; and the list of improvements to which priority is attached—owing to sanction having been already obtained or by reason of war damage. These include the Stepney and Poplar reconstruction schemes, and development of the south bank of the Thames between Westminster and Waterloo, Cromwell Road extension, Blackwall Tunnel duplication, roundabouts at Strand, Waterloo Bridge, Elephant and Castle, Kingsway, Southampton Row. It is expressly stated several times, however, that the 1944 Town and Country Planning Act, and the present land use proposals, even if implemented, will not suffice to enable many of the essential projects of the Plan to be realised—on the desirability of which much can be said on both sides.

PLANNING AND INDUSTRY

WE pointed out the other day the painful lack of sympathy exhibited by the Ministry of Town and Country Planning in dealing with appeals against various improvements planned by local authorities and subject to Ministerial decision as between the public benefit and the interests of owners. The latest example of Ministerial anti-planning bias, that reported by the Chairmen of the Mansfield Town and Urban District Town Planning Committees, is of a slightly different nature. In this

case a colliery company applied for approval of the creation of a new spoil bank more than half a mile long with one end at 80 and the other at 150 feet above ground level. The local councils refused permission on the ground that the ironstone heap would spoil both the skyline and the amenity of the adjacent countryside. At the appeal the councils made it clear that they had no objection to alternative means of disposal being adopted in an adjacent valley and it was stated that the method proposed would not add more than 3d. to the price of each ton of coal raised. The Minister in allowing the appeal agrees that surrounding amenities cannot but be damaged but thinks the additional cost of the alternative plan prohibitive. On this there is obviously room for more than one opinion, but what is to be said of the further decision that the Minister "is bound to take into account that the injury to amenity must be judged in the light of the fact that extensive tipping has already taken place"? Surely cynicism could scarcely go further!

A BRITISH COUNCIL DECADE

IN years when the world has been so anxious to learn about Britain, it has been extremely fortunate that the British Council, established in July, 1935, existed to act as a "public relations office" on a national scale. From small beginnings its budget reached £3 million last year, and almost every medium is used with which bridges of knowledge and understanding can be built. A primary aim is to increase knowledge of the English language, through hundreds of schools and teachers, 34 British Institutes, scholarships to British centres of learning (600 have been given to date), special leave courses for Overseas Service personnel, and the export and translation of books, films, photographs, and music. At this moment the visit to England of the Comédie Française in exchange for the Old Vic's visit to France, and the tours of the Sadler's Wells Ballet, are demonstrating the two-way action of the Council. The Council handles a considerable export and exchange of periodicals, principally technical and scientific, and also produces several periodicals of its own, including the illustrated monthly *Britain To-day*. So far its activities have been not only most ably administered but have been unexceptionable on the somewhat delicate fringe between private enterprise and subsidised propaganda. But it is possible to visualise, under less impeccable direction, unfortunate conflicts of interest arising as, for instance, if the Council chose to use its privileged position in such matters as paper-supply or freedom from taxation, to compete with publishers generally.

TREES FOR TO-MORROW

ENQUIRIES are now being made to ascertain how many trees private owners need for planting next Winter, since the Forestry Commission has promised to supply the nursery trade with "up to ten million trees," if required. Tree figures are apt to astound the layman: last month, in a contemporary, a landowner remarked that he had planted about 4,000,000 trees. Between the years 1764 and 1826 John Duke of Atholl, is said to have planted over 14,000,000 larches, and William Cobbett is reputed to have "sold altogether more than a million plants" of the so-called acacia (*Robinia pseud-acacia*). Last February the stock of the Forestry Commission's 1,500 acres of nurseries was said to comprise some 250,000,000 seedlings and 70,000,000 transplants. The Commission is necessarily a large purchaser and collector of tree seeds. In the register for 1937, the last pre-war year, there are such figures as 1,345 lb. of Corsican pine seed, 1,397 lb. of Sitka spruce seed (which latter runs 200,000 to the lb.) and 2,000,000 one-year beech seedlings. Two of the various collections of acorns from one of our native oaks (*Pedunculata*) exceeded 4,600 lb., and from the other (*Sessiliflora*) there were collections of 34,041 lb. and 56,068 lb. The figures are a hopeful augury, but, before re-planting can be undertaken on anything like the scale of the fellings required by the war (and still required), the labour needed for clearing the ground and planting the seedlings needs to be released: there is as yet no sign of that.



Humphrey and Vera Joel

AMONG THE WELSH HILLS: NEAR TAN-Y-BWLCH, MERIONETH

A COUNTRYMAN'S NOTES

By

Major C. S. JARVIS

LAST Summer there arose, from the garden humus heaps apparently, a school of thought, with expert writers on the subject, which taught the new doctrine that it was unnecessary—in fact harmful—to hoe and root out weeds in the vegetable garden, and that the plants did far better if allowed to grow in a natural state. I forget now what were the arguments in favour of leaving things to Nature, but believe it was something to do with disturbance of soil, conservation of moisture and provision of shade; and it all sounded most convincing. Usually I am not attracted by new beliefs, but I hailed this one with enthusiasm as it was such a comforting doctrine, and such a welcome change from the harsh admonitory command “keep the hoe constantly at work” which occurs so monotonously in the gardening columns of our newspapers, and which is such depressing reading when one is trying to fit in half an hour's rest in an easy chair with a book without a constant nag from one's conscience.

* * *

SO this year I left some rows of peas, dwarf beans and other produce to Nature, and at the time of writing it is difficult to discover how the vegetables have fared within the dense Malayan jungle which has sprung up in the spots where a few short weeks ago I sowed the seeds in clean soil. Moreover, I do not know what the lush tropical growth may hide in the way of wild life, as the other evening I flushed a full-grown rabbit from a row of what are supposed to be Laxton peas, and later a stag strolled out of the Canadian Wonder beans. The jungle is not quite high enough yet to conceal a water-buffalo, but, if the rate of progress is maintained in this growing weather,

this cover should soon be available, and an adequate food supply for the animal is assured.

The only items one can mark down on the credit side is that the pony in the adjoining field, which has an accordion-pleated neck on the giraffe principle, judging by the vegetables she can reach over the wire fence, has now lost her *svelte* figure owing to the number of 5-ft. sow-thistles I throw over to her every evening when momentarily tempted to break my vow of non-resentment to weeds; and I am now entertaining to free meals a flock of some twenty goldfinches on the finest crop of groundsel ever grown in Hampshire.

* * *

WHEN in despair, and with what one might call a dock and sow-thistle complex, I leave the weed-grown garden and, rod in hand, go to the river in the hopes that this queer patchy weather of Summer will bring on a hatch of fly to coincide with my presence, I find an even worse state of affairs. On the mile beat allotted to me, the other evening I could discover only one stretch of thirty yards where a fly could be dropped on an open pool, the remainder of this once lordly river being so densely weed-grown that in parts it was difficult to see where the meadows ended and the water began.

The birds of the air, as opposed to those of the water, are finding things entirely to their liking, for the rioting beds of ranunculus and other growths in mid-stream provide new and

attractive feeding-grounds, where it is possible to take the family for their evening meal without the risk of the children getting their feet wet. The water-rats also appreciate the existing conditions, as, instead of having to take off thirty yards up-stream from their objective when making a call on an opposite bank acquaintance, they can now cross the river at any point at the double without troubling to pick a pathway.

The river keeper, as I expected, blames the Catchment Board, as this all-powerful body, whose one idea is to run all our rivers straight to the sea without one moment's delay, undertook to cut the weeds this Summer with the help of Italian prisoners of war, and the Italians are apparently engaged elsewhere. I saw ten of them lately reclining in a lush meadow, and making those chaplets of flowers which the Caesars used to wear in Rome on all Victory parades.

From time to time during the last six weary years I have pondered over the question as to what I shall do in the next war. Various attractive and well-fed propositions have occurred to me, but after mature consideration I think I shall try to become an Italian prisoner of war in England.

* * *

I HOPE my garden, orchard and what is known as accommodation land, which is a resounding title for the waste where the weeds grow, are not going to get a bad name in the bird world as a danger area and one unsuitable for the raising of a family, but we have a most deplorable record of death and disaster to report this Spring and Summer, and it is now too late in the year to expect very much in the way of later hatches.

PRINCE CHARLIE'S COUNTRY

Written and Illustrated by ALASDAIR ALPIN MACGREGOR



THE HEAD OF LOCH SHIEL AT GLENFINNAN WHERE THE JACOBITE STANDARD WAS RAISED ON AUGUST 19, 1745

IT was John Tyndall (1820-1893) who, believing matter to be composed of Newtonian atoms and molecules, arrived at the naïve conviction that one could endow it "with the potency of such things as the feelings of Awe, Reverence, Wonder, and the love of the beautiful, physical and moral, in Nature, Poetry, and Art." Since Tyndall's time, most of us have moved away, and to an extent nigh sacrilegious, from any such concept. Yet, there may be something in the pronouncement of this Victorian physicist. I myself have known trees which I thought to have been so endowed, and even picturesque stretches of our West Highland shorelands. It cannot be denied that certain places seem permanently imbued as with this quality which Tyndall defined.

Who would deny that there exists something of the kind in that western part of Inverness-shire spoken of as Prince Charlie's Country? There are other areas of Britain closely associated with Charlie and his campaign; but not one of them except, perhaps, Culloden, has so unmistakable a sough of "The Forty-five" as the region lying west and north-west of Fort William—a region embracing all Locheil's Country, and so much of Clan Ranald's. Part of the Jacobite treasure in *louis d'or* may still be buried about Loch Arkaig; and there is a tradition that a minor quantity of similar pieces lies somewhere between Arisaig and Morar. Certainly, one gets a whiff of the Rebellion about Achnacarry, Locheil's ancient seat by Loch Arkaig-side, and among the old and

withering trees still defining the Dark Mile, so close at hand.

The most accessible stretch of this wild and beautiful territory is that traversed by the West Highland Railway in its forty-two miles of twistings and turnings between the head of Loch Linnhe, at Fort William, and the western seaboard, at Mallaig.

Wild and beautiful, I said. Yes, indeed! So wild that much of it was included in that region known for centuries as the Rough Bounds of Scotland. And beautiful, did I say? Surely, there does not exist anywhere else in this land of ours such concentrated natural loveliness! To those who claim that one should see Naples before dying, I would add "See also the tideways of Moidart, and the sheen-white sands and sea-scapes of Arisaig and Morar."

Just two hundred years ago, there came anchor in Loch nan Uamh, one of the remote sea-lochs between Moidart and Arisaig, the French frigate, *La Doutelle*. (Do not be tempted to tell me that she was called something else, and spelt differently, since I am more than aware of it!) That was on July 19, 1745, to be precise. She had aboard her Prince Charlie and seven of the most celebrated of his adherents. Some days later, the Prince, for the first time, set foot on the Scottish mainland when he disembarked at Borrodale, a farm belonging to Clan Ranald, and situated close to the shore of Loch nan Uamh. The first person of importance to visit him here was Donald Cameron, younger of Locheil, whose father, Chief of the Clan Cameron, had been attainted and was in exile, because of his part in the insurrection of 1715.

On all the doubts and enthusiasms expressed at Borrodale as to the Prince's chances of success, I have not space to deal here. Suffice it to say that the third and final Jacobite Rebellion of the eighteenth century had now begun. "Be the issue what it will," said Charlie, "I am determined to display my standard, and take the field with such as may join it. Locheil,



EBB TIDE AT CASTLE TIORAM, CLAN RANALD'S ANCIENT STRONGHOLD IN MOIDART

whom my father esteemed the best friend of our family, may stay at home, and learn his Prince's fate from the newspapers."

* * *

The road between Fort William and Mallaig follows the same alignment as the railway, for, as the Rev. Dr. Kenneth MacLeod, that sweet-singer of the Isles, puts it—

It's by Shiel Water that the track is to the West,
By Ailort and by Morar to the sea.

This Road to the Isles, as it is now popularly called, running along the northern shore of Loch Eil, soon leads one through green valleys to Glenfinnan, at the head of Loch Shiel. There the very breeze a-blowing among the pines and larches fringing the shore, and crowding upon the hillsides, bears with it a sob of "The Forty-five," a heartache for a lost cause and a fallen dynasty, a poignant remembrance of an ancient order of chivalry, the last hopes of which were shattered at Culloden, on the eastern side of this same county of Inverness. There also, at Glenfinnan, in the form of a tall column surmounted by a statue of Prince Charles Edward, stands that well-known monument commemorating the raising of the Jacobite

From Glenfinnan the road, in threading its way through Prince Charlie's Country, passes along the shore of Loch Eilt, with its tiny islets canopied by tall pines. It then follows the course of the River Ailort to Lochailort Inn, which is situated at a convenient distance between Glenfinnan and the terminus of road and railway at Mallaig. At Lochailort the lover of wild places should tarry a night or two on his journey through this romantic country, if merely to tread the bridle-path lying wand-like across this Kingdom of the Green Hills, and leading one seaward above the shore of Loch Ailort to the remote homesteads of Moidart—to Roshven and Samalaman and Genuig, to Invermoidart and Kinlochmoidart, to Ardtoe and to Acharacle. For forty years Angus MacDonald, the old postman, travelled this bridle-path on foot and by pony, between Lochailort and Genuig, and never missed a day. Shortly before his death, which occurred a few years ago, we estimated that, in this wise, he had covered 180,000 miles in the service of the Post Office.

Slowly and sinuously through deep pools runs the River Shiel (the outflow of the loch of the same name) to join the tide at Loch

fall Argyll's war-galleys returned to Loch Moidart. With ease, his men overpowered and slew the garrison. Ere his ravages were completed, however, the sons of Clan Ranald came back from the glens of Moidart, and in turn slew such of the invaders as were unable to escape.

* * *

As the road swings northward in the direction of Arisaig and Morar, it bends by Borrodale. There, set among the trees, is the house said to have been occupied by the Great Clan Ranald himself, when Prince Charlie stepped ashore at Loch nan Uamh. While I was on a visit to this house a few years ago, my hostess conducted me to an attic room, that she might point out a fragment of old wallpaper, no larger than a man's hand. It was all that remained, she told me, of the paper covering the walls of this apartment in Prince Charlie's time, and was being preserved, *in situ*, as a relic of "The Forty-five," and a memento of the Prince's intimate associations with this countryside.

As might be expected in a region to which, after Culloden, Charlie resorted as a fugitive, there are many caves where he hid in the months



CLOUDS ABOVE THE GREAT MOOR BETWEEN ARISAIG AND MORAR

Standard on August 19, 1745, a month after *La Doutelle* dropped anchor in Loch nan Uamh, Loch of the Caves. In 1938 this monument, marking the very spot on which the Highland Clans mustered for Charlie, became the property of the National Trust for Scotland; and here, under the auspices of that body, bi-centenary celebrations are to be held next month. Set into the wall surrounding the monument are three large metal tablets, each bearing an inscription which tells its own story. One inscription is in the Gaelic. Another is in Latin. The third runs thus:

On this spot Charles Edward Stewart first raised his standard on the xix day of August, MDCCXLV, when he made his daring and romantic attempt to recover a throne lost by the imprudence of his ancestors. This column was erected by Alexander MacDonald, Esquire, of Glenaladale, to commemorate the generous zeal, the undaunted bravery, and the inviolable fidelity of his forefathers, and the rest of those who fought and bled in that arduous and unfortunate enterprise.

This pillar is now, alas! also become the monument of its amiable and accomplished founder, who, before it was finished, died in Edinburgh on the iv day of January, MDCCCXV, at the early age of xxviii years.

Moidart. On Eilean Tioram, a tidal islet of rock and grass lying a little offshore at the mouth of the loch, stands that eminent ruin, Castle Tioram, Clan Ranald's ancient stronghold in Moidart. This islet, as its name signifies, can be reached, dryshod, at low tide. One follows the wide belt of sand linking it with the pine plantation and emerald sward of the adjacent shore.

In 1715, about the time of Sheriffmuir, the Chief of the Clan Ranald MacDonalds directed the destruction of Castle Tioram by fire, lest it should fall into Hanoverian hands. At an earlier date, Clan Ranald himself (this being the title of the Chief as well as that of his Clan) having already displeased the new dynasty, the Earl of Argyll was commissioned to sail for Moidart with a fleet of war galleys to lay siege to it. But the old fortress held out, although dire famine pressed upon its defenders. A sigh of relief was breathed through its corridors when it was observed that Argyll and his men, tiring of their protracted efforts, repaired to their galleys and sailed away. Most of the defenders, in the desperation of hunger, then sallied forth to collect supplies of food among their homes in the neighbourhood, having left the Castle to the protection of a skeleton garrison. At night-

between defeat and his final return to France. One such cave you will find by some fallen rocks in the grounds of Arisaig House, not far from the shore of Loch nan Uamh. A small sign-post within the grounds directs one to it in a vague way. Yet another cavern identified with his wanderings, and shown on many maps as Prince Charlie's Cave, lies high in the hillside above the western end of Loch Beoraid, one of the inland lakes of South Morar. This cave is much the more remote, of course; but it can be reached not too strenuously by the two-mile track leading north through the mountains from the roadside at Loch Eilt.

To the north of Arisaig, and lying for the most part between road and railway, which now diverge until they again join up near Morar station some five miles farther on, is that extensive stretch known as the Great Moor, from the peat-hags of which the natives of these parts, for centuries, have derived their fuel. Than this vast expanse on a Summer's day, with its moorland flowers, its waving cotton-grass, its scents and sounds, you cannot imagine anything lovelier of its kind. As for its western fringe, where the road skirts innumerable sea-creeks and caverns, touching the arcs of sandy bays, tangent-wise—well, do you wonder that poets



OVER THE SEA TO SKYE: SLEAD FROM CAMUSDARROCH

A CORNER OF LOCH NAN UAMH IN WHICH THE PRINCE'S SHIP
CAST ANCHOR ON JULY 19, 1745LOCH BEORAID DEEP-SET AMONG THE MOUNTAINS IN
PRINCE CHARLIE'S COUNTRY

come to Morar for inspiration, and that artists return to it year after year? Its sands have a sheen of their own. Its sea-scapes, which always embrace something of the Small Isles, or of the Sleat of Skye, or perhaps of the Ardnarmuir coast, are unbelievably beautiful. The colours of sea and of islands and skerries hereabouts are as of magic. Unless you had seen them for yourself, you would regard them as quite fantastic in any painting.

One must not conclude without a word or two on Loch Morar. This freshwater lake, stretching due east and west for a dozen miles or so, and dividing South Morar from North Morar, is but thirty feet above sea-level, and not more than half a mile from the sea. Yet, it is reputed to be one of the deepest lochs in Europe. A depth of over a thousand feet has been sounded. Sir Archibald Geikie held that, with the exception of the submarine hollow fringing the south of Scandinavia, Loch Morar was the profoundest hollow recorded in the European plateau. After a night's rain, the burns fall noisily into it from the tarns among the surrounding hills, peaty of hue, and sparkling in the sun-gleam. Then, too, its crowded waters surge by river and falls to the sands of Morar Bay.

One of the most alluring hill-tracks in Scotland is that leading from Morar by the northern shore of the loch of the same name, through Bracora with its oaken groves, and Bracorina and Brinacory, to South Tarbet Bay. A track of a kind continues beyond this to the head of the loch at Kinlochmorar.

The most glorious view of Loch Nevis awaits him who strikes northward at South Tarbet Bay, and crosses the isthmus of about a mile in width to another Tarbet Bay, on Loch Nevis itself. Early Autumn is the time for this journey on foot. The way begins as a road passable for vehicles of moderate dimensions. Then it contracts considerably, ultimately dwindling into the merest path, and in places actually losing itself completely among grass and bracken, or washed away by Winter torrents. Here, to be sure, is a region as yet unspoiled by man. Here, in the leafy months, your tread, in bruising the bog-myrtle, perfumes the air as with frankincense.

Such is Prince Charlie's Country—the territory where he landed just two hundred years ago; the territory in which he sought refuge when all his hopes were gone; the territory whence he embarked for the last time.

After much trial and tribulation, news was brought, through Lochail, that the French vessel, *L'Heureux*, having eluded the English ships of war, had crept into Loch nan Uamh, and was ready to convey Charlie to the safety of Louis's court. And so he, and Lochail, and Dr. Archibald Cameron, and others who had been prominent in the late Rebellion, sailed away for France, "leaving us," as John MacDonald of Borrodale wrote, "in a worse case than he found us." The Prince was relieved that an end to his hardships seemed in sight. According to the same authority, he "addressed himself to such as stayed behind to live in good hopes, and that he expected to see us soon, with such a force as would enable him to reimburse us for our losses and troubles." The following now follows that sentence of hopelessness in John MacDonald's narrative—"And so he ended as he began."

Even to-day, in this countryside, one meets folks who speak of the royal fugitive as though they, themselves, had known him personally, and had shared with him all his ups and downs. Is it surprising, then, that this indescribably beautiful corner of Scotland should have retained its romantic appeal? Is it to be wondered at that it should still bear the stain of tragedy? This is the stain of which, in two centuries, neither the showers of Summer, nor yet the snows of Winter, would seem to have absterge it.

COW CLUBS OF WENSLEYDALE

Written and Illustrated by
G. BERNARD WOOD

It is only the inveterate townsman who regards any particular farming activity as conforming to one definite, changeless pattern; for him dairy-farming, for example, may seem much the same whether followed in Cornwall or in the Hebrides. Yet local customs and conditions can make this or any other branch of farming appear a novel and even a strange business when first witnessed by a farmer from another area. I have seen experienced Suffolk herdsmen open their eyes in amazement when shown pictures of the limestone fells and steep ravines which members of their fraternity in the North have to contend with daily.

Consider that lovely part of Wensleydale around the villages of Castle Bolton, Redmire and Preston under Scar. These places share farming ways and traditions which so far differ from common practice that some would claim them to be—in part at least—unique.

The variation from the normal springs largely from local geography. As there is all too little pasture in the valley—the foot of the fells being so near the river—farmers in this area graze their cattle on the hill-tops from May to September every year, leaving the valley



MILK-CARRYING DONKEY AT CASTLE BOLTON

with the other cattle—prize beasts, many of them—on Redmire Pasture, the candidate has a letter P (passed) marked on one horn—an indication mark which proves its usefulness if the cow dies and compensation is claimed by its owner. Such death benefits—and a few years ago these amounted to £14 per cow—are paid out of a fund maintained by the fees charged for enrolling a cow in the club, and from revenues derived from letting Redmire Pasture for sheep-grazing during the Winter.

Another advantage of club membership comes through the services of the communal herdsmen who tend the cattle, bringing them down twice daily to the milking-places with the aid of a well-trained dog duly approved by the club committee. Locally, the man is known as "the dogger-in" and his task is no light one, for morning mists frequently obscure the higher grazing grounds and conceal the treacherous limestone outcrops on the downward tracks. He directs his dog by a series of whistles, and counts the cows as they leave the pasture.

So distant are some of the pasture grounds, especially some that are not supervised by the club, that the cows are milked on the spot and the milk is actually brought down to the village dairies by donkeys. A man will sometimes carry a budgett, or "back-can," holding eight gallons, for shorter distances, but "milk-carrying on one's back is very unhealthy for a man," they will tell you. Hence the donkeys. Surefooted over rough ground and apparently indifferent to its steepness, each donkey will carry two budgetts pannier-wise; each can rests on a kind of wooden chair strapped to a thick harness.

At Redmire the donkeys themselves graze on the spacious green, where you can see several walled enclosures or "donkey garths" erected years ago for the much larger contingent of animals that were employed as carriers—of both men and mineral—in the lead-mining days. More recently the donkeys, or their

descendants, were used to convey coal to and fro. A woman at Castle Bolton once kept a team of donkeys for carting coal regularly from Bishop Auckland, over 30 miles away, and during the general strike of 1926 Neddy again came to the rescue of folk in this part of Wensleydale by carrying sacks of coal down from the hastily re-opened workings on the surrounding fells.

Yet Neddy's present rôle seems more fitting for the patient beast. "Black diamonds" are all very well, but how much more distinguished to bring down supplies for the "Milk Express" that runs nightly from Wensleydale to London!



FARMER WITH A "BACK-CAN" OF MILK

pastures as meadow-land in preparation for the hay harvest. The peculiar situation is met by the local Cow Clubs, whose origin reaches back to the time when the district was extensively mined for its lead. Every miner had two or three cows which he grazed on the fine upland pastures, but, as their work left them little time to tend their cattle, they clubbed together to pay for a communal herdsmen; thus were formed the Cow Clubs.

Preston under Scar's club has only recently ceased to function. Castle Bolton's club operates a common pasture known as the Ellrens (overlooking the castle where Mary Queen of Scots was held prisoner for two years), while that at Redmire controls extensive slopes ranging over Redmire Scar for about two miles and climbing from the railway station to a height of 1,100 feet.

Although each Cow Club has its own regulations, those obtaining at Redmire club can be taken as typical. The club has a committee, which passes or rejects any beast brought up for membership. If accepted as fit for grazing



A REDMIRE DONKEY ON DUTY



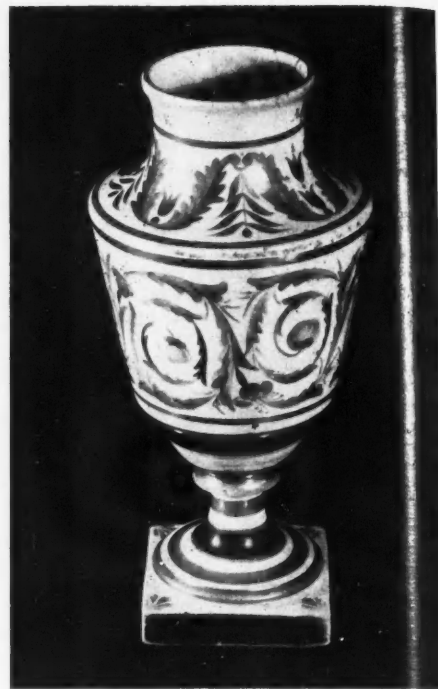
GEORGE III JUBILEE CHINA

By E. NEVILL JACKSON

(Left) 1.—VASE OF CHAMBERLAIN
WORCESTER CHINA

The silhouette is surrounded by the motto :
Dear to His Subjects. The decoration of this
vase is in floral arabesques of brilliant colours ;
others were made without colour
in the decoration

(Right) 2.—REVERSE OF THE SAME
VASE



KING GEORGE III visited the Worcester China Factory in 1788, when the royal warrant was bestowed; ten years later, pieces of all types, from homely beer-mugs and hot-water jugs, to finely modelled bowls, plates, dishes, vases and centre-pieces, beautifully decorated in colour, were produced, anticipating the patriotic demand for mementoes of the Jubilee, the fiftieth anniversary of the reign of the well-beloved "Farmer King."

Whether the silhouette profile which decorated many pieces was taken from a shadow portrait obtained on the occasion of this visit to the Chamberlain Worcester factory, it is impossible to say. In answer to my enquiries of the management, I hear that there is no record of it in their books; nor have they any example in their museum of any Jubilee china. It does not appear in their old price lists, or in their trade ledgers, so that we must remain ignorant as to these rare pieces, except those in private ownership, for there are no examples in the Victoria and Albert Museum.

The exact date and place when the portrait was taken is of minor importance; a silhouettist may have been in the crowd which greeted Royalty at Worcester, for these artists work quickly, though not as quickly as the great shadow artist, the sun, which casts a shadow when a solid body intercepts the light, with the speed of light-travel, and needs no cumbersome tools.

Possibly a profile already taken of the King may have been copied. In fact the portrait that I saw in the Windsor Castle collection, on an 8½-inch dish, bears marked similarity to the work of John Miers 1758-1821; he was one of the finest artists in shadow painting, whose work is of special interest, not only because of its quality, but because the span of his life exactly coincides with the heyday of the popularity of silhouette portraiture in Europe.

On Jubilee china will be found congratulations, suitable mottoes and dates, on ribbon bands or within ornamental framing, and it says much for the inventive brains of the designers that, among the pieces I have noted throughout many years, and on those pieces in my own collection, no two of the simple patriotic sentiments are phrased alike.

In a beautiful handled vase, in the possession of Queen Mary, there is decoration of gold lines, and fluent pattern of leaves and tendrils, also gilt; the lid is heavily ornamented in the same way, and the egg-shaped knob is also gold. The portrait of the King, framed in green leaf and tendrils, is in the centre, with the motto "Shout ye Britons for your King's Preservation"; above is the crown with the

cap of maintenance within, in correct crimson colour. The red rose of England lies beneath on a green field, and as supporters, the lion, in brownish red colour with tail erect, is on one side, and on the other side the unicorn, collared with the crown, and with his horn upstanding. There are gold and crimson lines with the date October 25, 1809; more arabesque patterns decorate the round stand.

This specimen was originally the property of an owner in the south of England, where the several visits of King George III are spoken of as "grannie's tales"; he stayed with his suite in one of the large houses on the front at Weymouth. I have seen his big bathing-machine, now in a garden, doing useful service as a chicken-house, and in old diaries the band accompaniment of the King's morning bath is recorded; it seems that the doctor's order of sea bathing for the invalid was enjoyed.



3.—HOT-WATER JUG
ROYAL WORCESTER

The King's powdered wig and lace collar are unusual

From Weymouth also came two beautiful vases of the same size and proportions, on which are, respectively, silhouette portraits of King George III and Queen Charlotte, whose graceful headdress includes a filmy veil hanging over her shoulders; scrolls carrying the date, on either side, with the words Long Live the King, and the figure 50 in addition on the King's vase, alluding to the fiftieth year of his reign; on a ribbon below are the words: Jubilee Oct. 21, 1809. The handles are gilded or plain white alternately, and the egg-shaped knobs on the lids are gold; this beautiful pair now belongs to Queen Mary.

The Chamberlain Worcester vase (Fig. 1) is 18 inches in height. At the top, enclosed in gold lines, are the words: A Token from Margate; round the oval framing of the King's silhouette: Dear to His Subjects. Beneath are broad lines of red maroon, or would the old colour-name "super purple" used by Wedgwood at this period, and recorded by Mrs. W. P. Goreley in *Old Wedgwood Magazine*, be more suitable for the rich old-fashioned colour? The broad lines are alternately white, gold and this "super purple."

The King's silhouette is in true type, dense black; the bow of the tied-wig stands out, and the queue; the ruff or turned-down collar shows at the neck.

The arabesques decoration on the upper and lower body of the vase at the back is brilliantly coloured; above, stylised leaf pattern, in bright red, on each half leaf, and burnished gilt the other half, of the same leaf. A pendent sprig hangs between; below, stylised leaves and sprays in curves, centred with a spherical bud.

The colours of purple, greens of lily brightness, of blue and olive, combined with brown and fawn with gold, form a remarkable decoration suggestive of floral forms in leaf shape, with buds and stamens, bent to the purpose of formal ornament.

A similar vase is in the royal collection, except that the floral decoration, on the neck, is not coloured; it is 18 inches high; the King's silhouette is within a gold line, square frame, with the motto: Long May He Live to Reign.

A mug is in front of me as I write; it bears a portrait which is more elaborate. The wig is a greyish shade, showing the fashionable powder and curls; the ribbon fully drawn, with large bow tie, and the queue are all black. On the King's breast is the badge of the Order of the Garter; the words Jubilee King George III are on a ribbon.

This same distinction of powder on the wig is on the King's portrait on a homely and comfortable-looking hot-water jug, seemly and



4.—DISH, ROYAL WORCESTER CHINA, 8½ INS. The silhouette possibly after Miers. Motto: Long May He Live to Reign. Border of conventional flower forms in green and mauve with bead chains in gold. In the Royal Collection at Windsor Castle. By gracious permission of H.M. the King. (Right) 5.—PORRINGER. Arabesque ornament in colour. Motto: Integrity His Shield

caacious, suggesting a tea table. The lid has a ball top and gold painted lines. The spout of the jug is in the form of a conventional mask of a man. Further detail in the King's portrait includes a lace scarf beneath the chin. The words are George III Jubilee 1809 and below on a more elaborate ribbon Long May He Reign.

Besides this mug, there was one made in a Staffordshire factory in 1795, which was printed

in blue, with white profiles of King George III and Queen Charlotte; the portraits of the late King and Queen of France are also in the picture, which is called *A New Puzzle of Portraits of Late King and Queen of France*.

As King Louis XVI and Queen Marie Antoinette suffered death in 1793, their execution would still be vividly in the minds of possible buyers of this rather grim memento.

In 1810 there was produced at New Hall, Staffordshire, another silhouette portrait of King George III, in remembrance of the Jubilee. This portrait was on a delicately-made coffee can, 2½ inches high. Its decoration includes the motto: True to His God and to His Subjects. I have never seen its saucer, which would probably be without ornament, so was not preserved; this is to be deplored, as these Jubilee relics are rare.

FLAT-RACING REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

GRADUALLY and almost imperceptibly the bloodstock world is returning to its pre-war normal. Though it is yet early to be definite, the two-year-olds of the present season seem to be well up to the average if not actually above it, and, according to one astute judge, the best can be rated as follows: Rivaz, 10 st.; Khaled, 9 st. 12 lb.; Neapolitan, 9 st. 12 lb.; Sky High, 9 st. 5 lb.; Leventina, 9 st. 5 lb.; Woodwind, 9 st. 4 lb.; Neolight, 9 st. 2 lb.; Vilmorin, 9 st. 2 lb.; and Banco and Downrush, 9 st. 1 lb. This gives a good idea of their comparative merit and if the name of Gulf Stream—who was omitted as he has run only once—is added among the top half-dozen, the extraordinary facts emerge that three of the list—Rivaz, Khaled and Leventina—belong to the Aga Khan and are trained by Frank Butters, and that Neapolitan, Sky High and Gulf Stream are owned by Lord Derby and are under the care of Walter Earl. In some ways this is unfortunate, but on the other hand no one can begrudge such great supporters of the Turf their continued success as breeders and owners, while their trainers are among the most popular in their profession.

A further interesting fact is that, with the single exception of Leventina who is by Fair Trial, all are by either Dante's sire Nearco or by Hyperion. There will be many opportunities to deal in detail with their breeding later. Briefly put for the moment, Rivaz is a bay, January-foaled, filly by Nearco from Mumtaz Begum, she by the Derby winner Blenheim from the famous Mumtaz Mahal: Khaled is a bay, April-foaled, colt by Hyperion from Eclair, an Ethnarch mare who has also bred that sterling mare Lady Electra and was bought by the Aga Khan, when carrying Khaled, for 3,500gs., at the July Sales of 1942: Neapolitan claims Nearco as his sire and is a chestnut, February-foaled, son of Sundae, she by Hyperion from a sister to Bachelor's Double: Sky High is an April-foaled, brown colt by Hyperion out of the Jockey Stakes winner Pyramid, she by the Derby winner Papyrus from an own-sister to the St. Leger winner

Keysoe; while Gulf Stream is an April-foaled bay son of Hyperion's and is a three-parts brother to the One Thousand Guineas and Oaks winner Sun Stream, from the One Thousand Guineas winner Tide-way, she by the St. Leger winner Fairway. Very obviously every one of these is bred "in the purple" and upon breeding fully qualified to prove the winner of a classic contest.

Leaving these youngsters for the time being, for the second-season runners, the retirement of the One Thousand Guineas and Oaks winner Sun Stream to the paddocks, and the ready victory of Dante in the Derby seem to have absorbed all interest in the St. Leger, for the very simple reason that Sun Stream seemed to be Dante's only real danger. This is reflected in the betting, or what there has been of it, as slight odds are asked for on Dante and sevens offered against the field. With under two months to go until the decision of the race—which will be held at York—this may seem like a lack of enterprise upon the part of commission agents, but it will be a wise man who—if all goes well—will attempt to find one to beat the favourite. The aforesaid agents realise this and, after the losses they incurred over his Derby victory, are, in all probability, very glad that the St. Leger market has "dried-up."

Even more interesting than the running of the youngsters or the three-year-olds have been the performances of the older horses which reached a climax in the Gold Cup at Ascot. Rarely, if ever, in memory, has such a classic field assembled at the gate for this long-distance struggle. The Aga Khan's St. Leger winner Tehran—a son of the Derby winner Bois Roussel—was an odds-on favourite to beat such horses as the Derby and Jockey Club Cup winner Ocean Swell; the Oaks and Champion Stakes heroine Hycilla; this year's Coronation Cup victor Borealis, who separated Tehran and Ocean Swell in the last St. Leger; Abbots Fell, deputising for the luckless Rockefeller, and the good handicappers Cadet and John Peel. At hardly any stage of the race did Tehran look likely to justify his favouritism and Ocean Swell

beat him decisively by a length and a half, thus proving himself to be, without a doubt, the best of his age. Abbots Fell was a further length and a half behind Tehran and John Peel a close-up fourth.

In every way it was a satisfactory race and all connected with the winner are to be congratulated upon his success. Lord Rosebery, his owner and breeder, could not have celebrated his appointment as Steward to the Jockey Club in a more appropriate way, and the success of his colt will be particularly pleasing to him as he is one of the first crop of runners by Blue Peter, who won the Two Thousand Guineas and Derby in 1939, and is, moreover, from Jiffy, a Hurry On mare of the Paraffin line that has played such a prominent part in the Rosebery Turf successes. Further, his win put another feather in the cap of Jack Jarvis the Park Lodge trainer, who was responsible for the preparation of Golden Myth when he won in 1922, for that of Foxhunter who scored in 1933, and for that of Flynn who annexed the Cup at the last pre-war celebration. A past master in his art, Jack Jarvis has fairly eclipsed himself with Ocean Swell. Eph Smith who was in the saddle was at his best, than which no more need be said.

And the future? As we have endured all the trials and tribulations of regional racing since the beginning of the 1942 season, it is welcome news that all these tiresome, but necessary, restrictions will end with the meetings at Windsor and Pontefract on Saturday, July 28, and that a week later horses can run at any meeting irrespective of where they are trained. The fixtures for the first week in August include meetings at Ascot and Stockton on Saturday, August 4, and Bank Holiday; Newmarket on August 8, 9 and 10, and Salisbury and Redcar on Saturday, August 11. The full programme for the remainder of the season is available. Brighton is the only new course in the fixture list. It is to be sincerely hoped that the inception of the new arrangement will coincide with a removal of all restrictions on the use of petrol.

ROYSTON.

TRAFALGAR HOUSE, WILTSHIRE—II

THE SEAT OF EARL NELSON

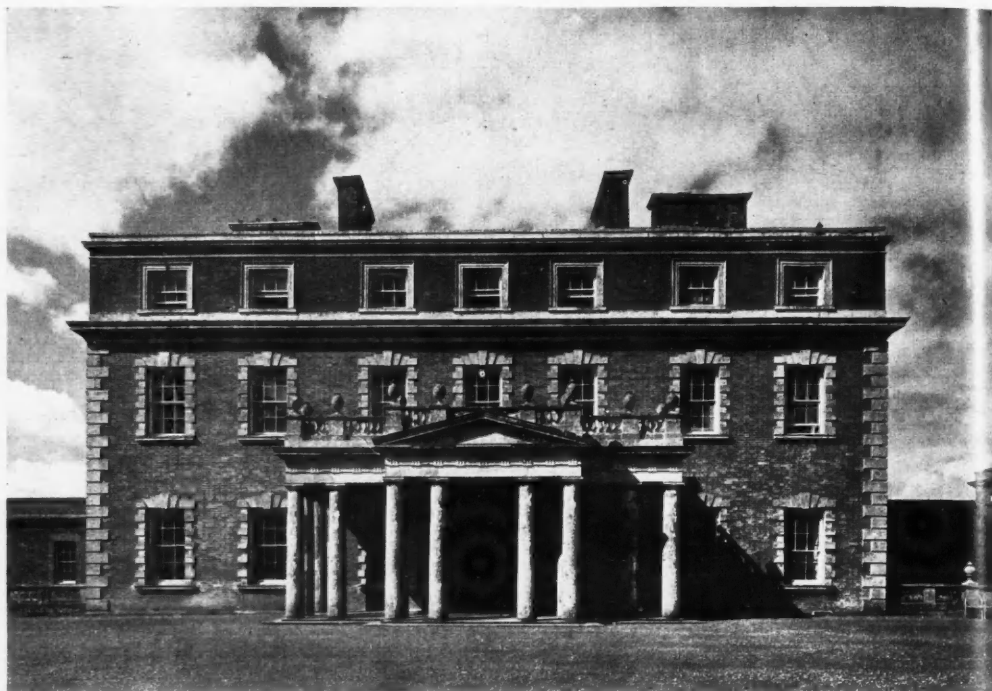
The house, built in 1733 and enlarged in 1766, was purchased by the Nation in 1814 for the successors of Nelson, when its name was changed from Standlynch to Trafalgar House

By

CHRISTOPHER HUSSEY

THE death of Nelson was felt as something more than a public calamity. An object of our admiration and affection, of our pride and our hopes, was suddenly taken from us. . . . The people of England grieved that funeral ceremonies, public monuments, and posthumous rewards, were all that they could now bestow on him whom the king, the legislature, and the nation, would have alike delighted to honour."

So Southey described the effects of the glorious and heavy



1.—THE ENTRANCE FRONT

The Doric portico added by Revett in 1766 to the front probably designed by Roger Morris in 1733

(Left) 2.—CHIMNEYPIECE OF THE HALL

The bust of Inigo Jones in relief, that of Nelson above



news of Trafalgar. The Rev. William Nelson who succeeded his younger brother as Baron Nelson of the Nile was created Viscount Merton and Earl Nelson of Trafalgar and succeeded him also as Duke of Bronté. A perpetual pension of £5,000 a year was granted by Parliament, and the sum of £90,000 for the purchase of a country house and estate—in 1814 laid out in the purchase of Standlynch. The precedent for this lay in the gift of the royal manor of Woodstock to the Duke of Marlborough and the building for him of Blenheim Palace. But though the name of Standlynch was accordingly changed, the erection of a special building does not appear to have been seriously considered.

On the other hand, when the Stratfieldsaye estate was bought for the Duke of Wellington, plans for an immense Regency mansion on the scale of Blenheim were unofficially drawn up (by Samuel Wyatt). These were rejected by the Duke, although Stratfieldsaye was architecturally less monumental even than Standlynch.

The choice of this Wiltshire property, which came into the market only in 1814 by the death of its owner, had everything to recommend it, not least, in the eyes of Earl Nelson and the Commission, that the house was in first-rate order and had been extensively improved fairly recently. The house built in 1733 for Sir Peter Vandeput, probably from designs by his brother-in-law Roger Morris, had had wings by John Wood the younger, with a portico and some interior work by Nicolas Revett added in 1766 for the dilettante Henry Dawkins, who directed that the property should be sold at his death. It thus has three distinct strata of interest: as the chief English domestic work of a notable but rarely encountered Georgian architect, Roger Morris; as reflecting the earliest results of the discovery of Greek architecture; and as the repository of much invaluable Nelsonian.

Two of these strata are juxtaposed in the chimneypiece (Fig. 2) of the great hall, into which opens Revett's Doric portico. A bust of Nelson surmounts it while one of Inigo Jones in relief occupies the overmantel framed between female terminal figures. The older

bust, in the place of honour, can only denote the great veneration felt by the first builder of the house and his architect for the father of English classicism, whose *Works* had recently (1727) been edited and published by Lord Burlington with the assistance of William Kent. If I am right in regarding Morris as the designer of this part of the house, this tribute to Inigo Jones confirms the respect in which he held his great predecessor at Wilton, where he was assisting the Earl of Pembroke in designing the famous Palladian bridge almost simultaneously with his working here. For the rest, the hall is more remarkable for its rococo luxuriance of stucco decoration, especially in the ceiling, than for following Jones-Palladio formulae from which, indeed, to that extent it departs. The niches flanking the inner doorway, now containing trophies of pikes, muskets, and pistols from H.M.S. *Victory*, are surmounted by festoons of naturalistic flowers, and the four lateral doorways by panels containing baroque scrolls. The details of decoration were not necessarily designed by the architect, though James Gibbs sketched designs for the stuccowork of his contemporary buildings.

The Saloon (Fig. 5), opening out of the hall, similarly combines rococo gaiety in the ceiling with classic *ordonnance* of the walls. Over the chimneypiece (evidently a later insertion) hangs the portrait by J. F. Rigaud which Nelson presented to Captain William Locker, his early commander and life-long friend, in 1781. It was painted when he was 22 and had recently been invalided home from Central American waters. In the central window, not seen in the photograph, is the bust by Thaller and Ranson carved in 1800 at the time of Nelson's triumphal visit to Vienna in company with the Hamiltons. The furnishing of the saloon is exceedingly attractive; an old Wilton carpet with a floral centre, brown ground and scroll design in gold; cerise silk curtains with an Empire design in gold; and white and gold chairs of the same period and upholstery as the curtains. The furnishing of the house throughout is due to the 3rd Earl, father of the present Earl, and his wife Lady Mary Agar, daughter of the 3rd Earl of Normanton (married July 28, 1845). He had succeeded to Trafalgar at the age of 12 a decade previously, and the young couple took up residence almost exactly a century ago to the day in a house largely bare of furnishings owing to



3.—THE HALL. AMID THE FINE ROCOCO DECORATIONS OF 1733, SMALL ARMS FROM H.M.S. *VICTORY* DECORATE THE NICHE



4.—LEATHER-COVERED SOFA FROM NELSON'S CABIN, H.M.S. *VICTORY*

the genealogical and chronological gap in the succession shortly to be related. The beauty and interest of the contents of the house to-day is almost entirely due to their discernment. Some came from the Fonthill sale, others were inherited from the Eyre family descended from the Bocklands, 17th-century lords of Standlynch.

Adjoining the hall to the left on entry (south-east corner) is a remarkable painted room (Fig. 6), the work of G. B. Cipriani, the decorative painter who had accompanied Sir William Chambers and Joseph Wilton on their return from Rome in 1755. The theme of the decorations (in oil colours) is the Arts, represented by ladies in a landscape except in the case of Poetry which is symbolised by the person of Shakespeare declaiming the passage beginning "The poet's eye in a fine frenzy rolling" to a tempestuous sky on the



5.—THE SALOON. CERISE EMPIRE CURTAINS, BROWN AND GOLD WILTON CARPET
Over chimneypiece, Nelson act. 22, by J. F. Rigaud



6.—PAINTED ROOM SYMBOLISING THE ARTS, BY CIPRIANI (1766)

north wall. This decoration was no doubt among those introduced by Henry Dawkins, in or after 1766.

The plan of the 1733 house provides a square room on each side of the hall and saloon respectively. The main staircase occupies the space between these corner rooms in the south side, a lobby that in the north, both now being passages to the corridors leading to the added wings. The south wing contains a big octagonal dining-room, a fine apartment containing the full-length portrait by Morton, Nelson family portraits and battle pieces, but entirely redecorated after a fire in 1886, also a number of subsidiary and upper rooms; the north wing also contains a reception room with a Revett ceiling illustrated last week. The secondary rooms in the central block have fine contemporary carved wood chimneypieces, for example the Boudoir (Fig. 14) with a pretty Victorian wallpaper in pale green and



7.—A NAUTICAL BEDSTEAD. ABOUT 1825

silver and some notable Dutch and Flemish paintings. The Library chimneypiece (Fig. 12) in statuary marble, however, strikes a different note with its delicate Greek mouldings and unusual frieze of Hellenistic symbols of the Seven Muses—undoubtedly designed by Nicolas Revett for Henry Dawkins whose brother had shared and greatly assisted Stuart and Revett's work at Athens. I am inclined to think that the charming and singular entablature (in carved wood) of the pink bedroom chimneypiece (Fig. 13) is also due to Revett. The room takes its name from the century-old wallpaper, but the Georgian cornice mouldings are also picked out in tints of the same colour. In the adjoining Red Bedroom the remarkable bed (Fig. 7), hung with golden brown (perhaps originally crimson) cloth might seem from the gilt anchors of the canopy to have been made for the great Admiral, but is not known to have any connection with him and is indeed at least twenty years later in style.

Many Nelson relics are arranged in the corridor to the south wing besides those in the hall and saloon. Among portraits is the miniature, artist unknown, of Nelson as a young man (Fig. 11) which Lady Nelson especially treasured and always carried in her bag; a profile by Downman, a small full-length by Guzzardi painted for the King of Naples, a Romney sketch for a large painting of which use was never made, and a pencil drawing by de Kester, that the Admiral used to consider a better likeness than any other portrait (Fig. 10). There is also a lithograph of one of Romney's numerous drawings of Lady Hamilton (Fig. 8). Objects include Nelson's Nile Medal in gold, a watch given by him to Captain Locker, an ivory-handled seal used at Copenhagen, a locket containing



8.—LADY HAMILTON
Lithograph after Romney



9.—NELSON'S CELLARET
Mahogany and ebony. c. 1800



10.—PENCIL DRAWING OF NELSON
BY DE KESTER

his hair and first signature with his left hand, an admiral's coat with four stars attached, and a lace cap made by Lady Hamilton for Horatia. Furniture comprises the leather armchair used by Nelson aboard the *Victory*—in which he probably sat to write his bequest of Emma "to my king and country" as the *Victory* sailed into action at Trafalgar; and the leather-covered sofa also from his cabin (Fig. 4). The most important piece intrinsically is the mahogany and ebony cellaret with gilt paw feet (Fig. 9), fitted with contemporary cut glass decanters and glasses, and in style dating about 1800. Other evocative relics are a copy of Mungo Murray's *Ship Building and Navigation* inscribed "Horatio Nelson, Lowestoft, 1777," the autograph log-book for September, 1804–May 7, 1805 (the period immediately preceding the pursuit of the French fleets to the West Indies and back which ended at Trafalgar), and a brace of pistols by Wogdon in a fitted case.

William 1st Earl Nelson died in 1835, having outlived his only son, when he was succeeded in the Earldom, under the terms



11.—NELSON AS A YOUNG MAN
Miniature; artist unknown

of the patent, by his nephew Thomas Bolton, son of Nelson's sister Susannah. The 2nd Earl, who took the name of Nelson, died within the year, when his eldest son succeeded to the Earldom, aged 12. A lawsuit was then in progress on the succession to the Sicilian Dukedom of Bronté which, on the 1st Earl's death, was claimed by his daughter who had married Samuel Hood, 2nd Lord Bridport. On his death-bed the 2nd Earl instructed his son to stop the case if the other side agreed to pay costs, which they did. The 4th and present Earl, who was born in 1857, succeeded his father in 1913. Through his grandmother, Frances Eyre, wife of the 2nd Earl, he is also descended from the Bocklands, she having been the daughter and heiress of John Maurice Eyre descended from Jane, daughter of the royalist Maurice Bockland who married Joan Penruddock. Thus in the female line the Nelson connection with Standlynch goes back to Elizabethan times, a fact which underlines the aspect of Trafalgar House as essentially a great Wiltshire country home no less than a memorial of the greatest of all British sailors.



12.—LIBRARY FIREPLACE. Marble, in Grecian style.



(Middle) 13.—A BEDROOM FIREPLACE.



(Right) 14.—FIREPLACE OF BOUDOIR. 1733

WILD LIFE IN KENYA—II

A HIPPOPOTAMUS FAMILY

Written and Illustrated by LT.-COL. C. H. STOCKLEY

AS my camera-boy and I were hurrying along a little river in the Northern Frontier District of Kenya, looking for a ford by which to cross and get above a big bull elephant feeding on the opposite hillside, there was a sudden swirl in the water at the edge of a big pool, and we both leapt back exclaiming "Mamba!" (crocodile!)

The water parted a few yards out and up came the head of a big bull hippo, who stared at us for a few seconds, then submerged with a force which sent little waves lapping all along the bank. It was a great surprise, for the river is a mere string of pools with a trickle between at most seasons, and abnormally good rains had only just swollen it to a size sufficient to accommodate such large fauna; it being nowhere more than fifteen yards across, except at this one place where it spread out to a thirty-yard pool against a natural rock dam before hurrying down a thousand feet of broken rock from the edge of the plateau to the plains below.

It meant that the hippo must have climbed many miles over steep and rough country to get to the river, and is another example of the problem as to how animals become aware of sources of good food and shelter many miles from their normal habitat.

While I was photographing the elephant dull bellows floated up to us from the river below, seeming to come from more than one hippo, full of *joie de vivre*.

Accordingly, on arriving there at sunrise next morning I was not surprised to see three large and uncouth heads floating in a reach about 200 yards above the pool where we had surprised the bull the previous day, and belonging to a family party of pa, ma and baby:



THE VALLEY UP WHICH THE HIPPO FAMILY MUST HAVE COME TO REACH THE RIVER IN THE PLATEAU

the word baby being perhaps a misnomer, as the youngster was three-quarter grown.

Getting a picture was a difficult problem. A hippo's hearing, particularly under water, is very good and its sense of smell and eyesight are both good, while only once did we find one of them on the bank in daylight, when, butterfly hunting, we ran into the old bull, who was

exploring two miles further upstream. Then the wind was shifty and the bank rarely free of long grasses or bushes, which get in front of the lens and make wavy blurs on the negative.

The first occasion was no exception, for, after a careful stalk, I pushed the camera over the top of a bush and pressed the trigger, thinking that I had got a first-class photograph of the bull's head, but two unseen reeds almost spoilt it.

At the sound of the shutter all three submerged and then their progress under water was easily traceable by the broad streak of fine bubbles, like an otter's "chain." Whether these bubbles come from the lungs or the crevices of the skin I cannot say, but probably the latter, as they appear too fine to be expelled from the lungs; though this is hard to understand with these great animals, as when they are already seven-eighths submerged surely the air from the skin crevices must be soon got rid of, while the "chain" persisted after a couple of hours of futile attempts at photography.

I timed the intervals between risings for air and it ranged from a usual 3½ minutes to, only once, a few seconds over four: not nearly as long as I had thought when trying the same thing on Lake Victoria. I was much struck with their use of cover when coming up for air. First the two adults only just pushed their nostrils out of the water, showing two small separated black blobs fringed with coarse hair, and they almost invariably protruded them under an overhanging branch or bunch of grass. But the youngster did not seem to have



A SURPRISE APPEARANCE OF A BULL HIPPO'S HEAD

learnt the correct technique, and out came the top of his head and neck above water; under cover usually it is true, but still much more conspicuous than the parents' efforts, which were easily camouflaged by even a bit of floating stick or weed.

Their hearing under water was marvellous. Even when I or the camera boy were twenty yards back from the bank, trying to follow them on tiptoe was futile. After a bit of watching I could make a fair guess as to where they would come up next, go back forty yards as quietly as possible and hurry ahead, then stand still and watch with the camera all ready.

From the point of view of good pictures it was not very profitable. On the second morning a herd of buffalo interrupted operations, while several photographs were spoiled by faulty apparatus. Overhauls and repairs were years in arrears, and my camera had necessarily endured some rough treatment, with amazing want of serious defects. But a sticky shutter, bad light in the very early morning under overhanging trees, and faulty slides, which let the light into several efforts, all combined to spoil results.

Still, on the third morning, as I stood by the lowest of the hippo pools I realised that the cow was regarding me coyly from under the overhanging leaves of the opposite bank, pushed the trigger and got a pleasant memory of mornings with the family.



THE COW LOOKS OUT FROM THE COVER OF OVERHANGING FOLIAGE

The previous article in this series appeared on June 22.

"A BONNY WEE PLACE" A Golf Commentary by BERNARD DARWIN

A FRIEND from Scotland lately wrote to me with tears in his eyes. I could not see them, of course, but I am sure they were trickling down his nose and into his ink—to tell me that Archerfield as a golf course was no more; it was under the relentless plough. He "brought me bitter news to hear" for I loved Archerfield. These horrid, and I suppose necessary, things will happen but they are lamentable. Archerfield was "a bonny wee place." Those were the words of a small caddie of mine who had never seen it before and was struck almost speechless by the charm of it. I cannot possibly mend his description. It was not a very great course, though it could have been made one by a skilful architect who was not too fierce and was not allowed too free a rein. Its beauty lay in its quietness and privacy, in the curtain of woods that hid it from the outer world, in its supreme naturalness. With that last quality it would have been perilous to interfere over much; the rabbits might have resented the help of human green-keepers. After strenuous work at Muirfield or Gullane, Luffness or North Berwick, Archerfield made the perfect surcease. I shall always think of it gratefully and sadly.

At the moment the thought of it has revived the old, wild dream, which I am sure all golfers have dreamed at times, of being a millionaire and having a private golf course of my very own. My dream always took the form of Archerfield, save indeed in one respect. It was an eighteen-hole course, though many of the holes were of a very short and rather indeterminate length. Had it been mine I think it would have had only nine and what beautiful ones they might have been! I have played on a fair number of private courses during a misspent life and if they have been "bonny" the best have also been "wee." The most seductive of them have been of nine holes only, such as Sutton Place, in Lord Northcliffe's time, and Leeds Castle, where I once had the pleasure of a day's golf. If I were the richest man in the world, if I were the sole owner of King Solomon's mines, I would not have more than nine holes. For that particular purpose I would not have St. Andrews as a gift but Prestwick inside the wall, or Worlington—there would be perfection.

One of the joys of such a course would be the power of going out for a round on a sudden inspiration. Eighteen holes might take too long or one might not feel inclined for so much exertion; but nine holes, preferably round the house or, at any rate, at the garden gate, would be ideally suited to the capricious mood of a millionaire. Mr. Wardle of Dingley Dell, who was an admirable host, was always proposing

amusements on the spur of the moment. "What say you to a rubber, Mr. Pickwick?" he would suddenly exclaim, or on another occasion, "What say you to an hour on the ice? We shall have plenty of time." So with my nine-hole course at my door I should be able to ask my guests in the cool of a Summer evening, "What say you to a round before dinner?" A real round on a real eighteen-hole course demands a certain amount of planning, but the golf on a private nine holes would be delightfully spontaneous. The clubs would be in the umbrella stand, the balls in a china bowl in the hall, and out one would go, just as fancy moved one. Some time ago, when I was temporarily a refugee in the Cotswolds, I made a pilgrimage (I wrote something about it at the time) to see the course in Stowell Park, where the once young Scotts had learnt their golf. It was then a sadly forlorn and derelict spectacle, but it had the right qualities—no more than nine holes, quite near the house and shielded from the world by trees. I could imagine a family four-ball dashing out for yet one more round and coming in late with barely time to dress for dinner.

The ideal course of this sort should not be too long and it should be decidedly difficult. At any rate it should possess two or three holes difficult to the point of trickiness and giving perhaps to its owner some little advantage in point of local knowledge. Naturally as it would be one's own course one could do what one liked with it, but in any case there is, I think, a certain licence on a private course which would not be permissible on a public one. In a particular mood one might have the greens shaven to the ultimate point, to a really desperate keenness, just as Mr. "Boxer" Cannon used to do in an impish manner at Worlington on particular occasions when his friends were coming to play there. That might be on one of the days when I did not mean to play myself but rather to watch the agonies of my guests. Again, one might have some greens much faster than others; that would be exceedingly soothing, and would "teem with quiet fun."

There is something else, more entirely legitimate perhaps, which may be done on a private course, and is a valuable device where space is limited, namely the playing to the same green for two different holes. There are some greens so engaging, so piquant, so girt about with difficulties that it seems a sad waste only to be able to approach them once and from a particular direction. With no crowd, for the players on my dream course would be as few as they would be select, this double use of a

green would be easy. I employed the device myself once, on "my" course in Macedonia. There was one heaven-sent little green, a shallow dip on the crest of a low hill, with the ground falling away on every side, beset by a variety of trouble. It would have been a sin and shame only to use it once, particularly as many of our greens were comparatively open and dull; so we played to it from opposite directions for our first hole and our last, and both were capital holes with no touch of sameness.

I have seen this plan employed on at least two private courses and on one of them it was carried to the very limit of ingenuity. There was very little room and there were not, as far as I remember, more than five or six greens in all, but one played to each of them from almost every point of the compass and there was no lack of variety about the game. One may know a green, as one imagines, intimately well and yet may discover wholly new aspects of it when, on an empty day, one plays a hole or two "back to front." Some comparatively innocuous bunker, as we know it, suddenly takes on new and terrific qualities when viewed from another quarter. It becomes perhaps a little "unfair" but is all the better for that. There would be several bunkers on my course that the guests would murmur among themselves were unfair; but they would have to make the best of them, and meanwhile I, like Mr. Mantalini, "should laugh demnably."

The defect of most private courses is that, in the nature of things, they are set in parks and most parks are muddy rather than sandy. Needless to say my course would have the lightest and sandiest soil and if possible the genuine seaside turf of Archerfield or of the jolly little nine holes at Kinshaldie, near St. Andrews, now, alas! defunct. Kinshaldie did not profess itself golf of the highest class, but it too was "a bonny wee place" with one or two highly entertaining shots. A Sunday afternoon there after a week's steady two rounds a day on the Old Course, at three hours a round, with all the agitations of starting times, had a quality of light-hearted repose never to be forgotten. There were woods there too and my course would most certainly have woods to shelter me and it from the vulgar gaze. Foursomes would be encouraged, though I suppose I should have to allow people to play four-ball matches if they wanted to. There would be at most two medal days a year, and on those days, when I should not myself be playing, the holes would be cut in the oddest places and the greens shorn very close indeed. Finally if anybody asked me what Bogey for the course was he would not be asked again.

A RURAL RECONDITIONING CAMPAIGN—II

COTTAGE RECONSTRUCTION IN PRACTICE

By W. E. BARBER

IN a previous article it was pointed out that the chief practical justification of an immediate campaign under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act lies in the fact that the large number of rural cottages capable of effective reconditioning has so far been only guessed at. At a time like this the materials—especially local materials—and labour available will thereby be more speedily employed, and more profitably so far as agricultural housing is concerned, than if they are thrown into a general pool or used for carrying out local schemes for building new houses.

The success of such a campaign is not in doubt—apart from the need for immediate legislative action explained in the first article—provided that local authorities will act with promptness, intelligence and public spirit, that owners will add to these qualities a modicum of enlightened self-interest, and the Government

in the interests of agriculture and commonsense will agree to the self-evident propositions that the best use to make at the moment of specialised local labour and available materials is to employ them on the spot on work which makes far more additional accommodation available per man-hour than does work on the erection of new houses. Before returning to this all-important proviso let us consider briefly the position of the local authorities.

PRACTICAL STEPS FOR THE AUTHORITIES

The campaign we are considering must be well planned, and must rest on knowledge of the facts. Only the local authorities whose business it is to administer the Acts can supply the necessary intelligence service and organise action upon the information supplied. The Hobhouse Committee, in their comprehensive

survey of the whole field of local authority housing in the rural areas of England and Wales, did not conceal their opinion that in certain areas the Acts had been administered not only without enthusiasm but in disregard of the express intentions of Parliament. It is probable that their comments and the subsequent action taken by the Ministry of Health have already had their effect.

In any case by two very practical suggestions they have laid down a basis on which effective concerted action can be—and indeed is being—taken. The first is the establishment of Joint County Committees consisting of representatives of both Rural and County Councils together with co-opted members—the object being not only to ginger up authorities who do not play the game but “to enable concentration of thought and effort to be secured.” The fiat of the Ministry went forth in May of last year and these Joint Councils are the obvious bodies to carry out the intelligence work of the Reconditioning Campaign which they have in effect already been told by the Ministry of Health to undertake. The Rural Housing Survey which they have been asked to make classifies dwellings—among other categories—as being “appropriate for reconditioning,” and all that seems necessary is an instruction to concentrate on this category at once.

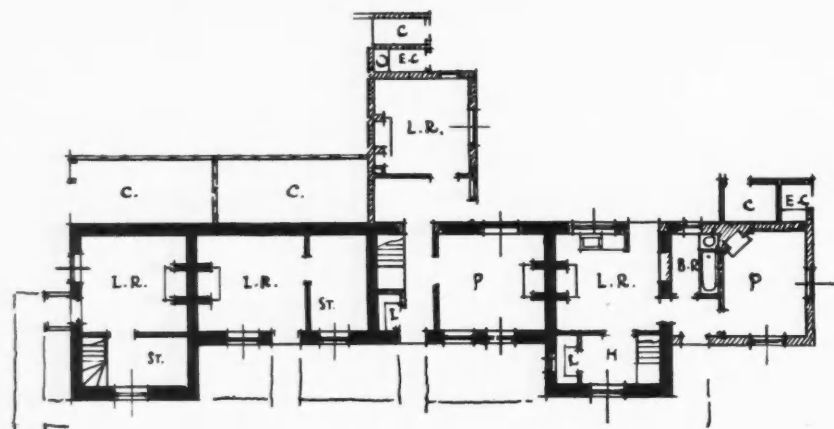
The Joint Committees have also already been given by the Ministry their virtual appointment to plan the local labour side of such a campaign, having been instructed that they can usefully take action as soon as they are constituted, in order to secure that the fullest possible use is made of all available building labour on that “maintenance, repair and general improvement of existing houses which has always been of special importance in rural areas.” This surely gives the Committees an immediate practical job in the campaign: to prepare their “Case List” for their area and to organise available labour.

PRACTICAL STEPS FOR OWNERS

What steps should the owners take? It may be worth pointing out to begin with that if a sufficient number of owners will only consider the position of “doubtful” cottages more seriously in the light of the terms offered in Mr. Willink's Housing (Rural Workers) Amendment Bill (set out in the earlier article), the task of the Joint Committees will be very much lightened, and the tempo of the reconditioning effort as a whole be both quickened and steadied. A great many considerations, quite apart from the limitation of rent to which he must submit, may affect an owner's decision either to recondition a cottage himself or to apply for a grant. But he should always remember that he can repay the grant and regain his freedom at any time during the stipulated twenty years. He should also remember in thinking over whether anything effective can be done to cottages on his estate, that two important changes have taken place since he last made a survey of the sort. In the first place the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act of last year has brought the amount of long-term credit available to owners for such purposes through the Agricultural Mortgage Corporation to a very much larger sum than in the past. The Corporation has been put on a new and sound financial basis by the Government largely in order that long-term credits at a reasonable rate of interest may be available to landowners and farmers who wish to modernise their buildings, overtake arrears of maintenance and generally to undertake such works of reconditioning as we are considering. In addition the prospect has been much eased for the owner by the concessions regarding the writing off of cost contained in the Income Tax Act passed just before the Dissolution, which provide that new buildings and works which cannot justify a maintenance claim will be taxed on the basis of a ten years' spread. All this of course applies just as much to farmer owner-occupiers as to other landowners.

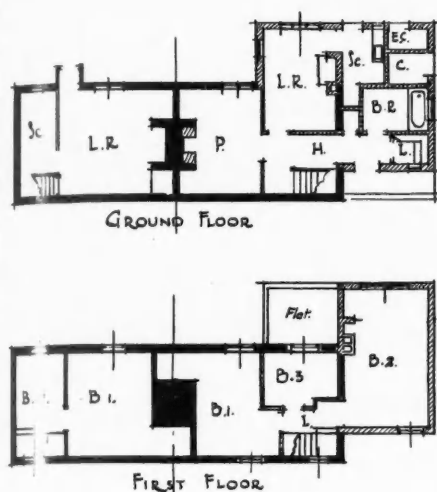
THE “WEEK-END COTTAGE” PROBLEM

There is another point so far as owners of agricultural cottages are concerned which may be worth mentioning here. Though it was not intended to offer encouragement and consolation to hesitating or doubtful owners, there is a passage of considerable



(Above) 1.—GROUP OF FOUR RECONDITIONED COTTAGES ON A WILTSHIRE ESTATE

(Below) 2.—THE BACK OF THE SAME GROUP
The building on the extreme right is a chapel



3.—PAIR OF COTTAGES, ONE RECONDITIONED, THE OTHER IN THE STATE IN WHICH BOTH WERE FOUND

Illustrating the advantage taken of the south aspect, shown here, by enlarging windows. Wood block flooring replaces stone paving, and the thatch has been renewed



interest in the Report of the Hobhouse Committee which seems worth their serious notice. The Committee after expressing their belief that the alleged effect of "week-end cottage" occupation on rural housing has been exaggerated, goes on to say:

While the war lasts and during the early post-war years before the new building programme has got fully under way, every available house will be needed for the normal country population, and it will be difficult to justify the retention of cottages for occasional occupation by people who have other homes elsewhere.

On the long-term view, however, we do not think that this taking over of old cottages by the better to do is necessarily a bad thing, provided always that an adequate number of new cottages are built for the working population. Many of these old cottages are quite unfit for occupation in their present state, and even if reconditioned will not provide a convenient or suitable home for a young family. On the other hand they are often picturesque, with features of architectural interest, and should be preserved. They can be made quite suitable for occasional occupation by people who have another home elsewhere. While, therefore, we would like to see as many as possible of the older cottages which can be made into comfortable homes reconditioned for working-class families, there are many, including some of the oldest and most interesting from the architectural point of view, which might be well allowed to pass into other occupation.

This pronouncement of an able and well-informed Committee is not without its bearing on the possibilities of reconditioning under the Act.

THE SELECTION OF "CASES"

The selection of "cases" for reconditioning treatment is a matter in which both owners and authorities are jointly concerned, seeing that the onus of applying for a reconditioning grant for his property rests upon the owner, and the onus of accepting or refusing the application upon the Council. The Council is in any case responsible for seeing, before accepting an application, that the owner's proposals comply with the terms of the Acts. And, as has already been pointed out, if the authority lists a case for reconditioning and the owner refuses or is unable to act, the authority may purchase the cottage and deal with it themselves.

If we assume, as we probably can, that the Joint Housing Committees get speedily to work on their "case-lists" and general marshalling of labour arrangements, they will provide here much opportunity for tactful negotiations between individual authorities and individual owners. It is presumably unnecessary to advise local authorities, or their technical advisers, to pay attention to their own building by-laws. But owners do forget that such things exist and sometimes have to be reminded. They may be somewhat reassured by a study of the Ministry of Health's *Rural Housing Manual*, which takes a broader and more general view of reconditioning than some local officials might adopt if left to themselves. We find it laid down, for instance, that a too rigid adherence to generally desirable standards of size and height should not be required in this class of work; that the disadvantage of a low ceiling or low windows

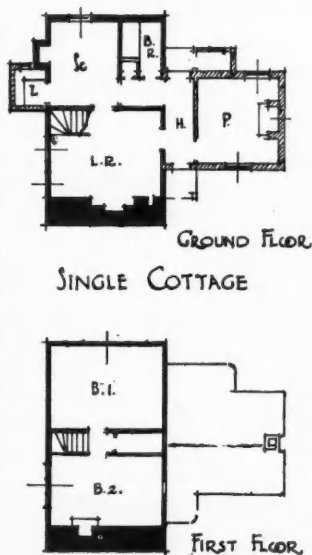
will be greatly reduced by good ventilation at the ceiling level, and that in place of expensive alterations to existing windows demanded by by-laws a skylight or dormer may sometimes be added at less cost and with less danger to the structure.

The *Manual* makes no bones, either, about recommending the relaxation of local by-laws for æsthetic reasons and, pointing out that the raising of the roof level may destroy the general proportions of a building, recommends that where there is ample space around the building, a ceiling below that adopted for new buildings might wisely be approved in connection with the reconditioning of existing buildings. Readers of *COUNTRY LIFE* do not, however, need to be told that in all matters of structural reconditioning competent advice should be taken, or that the services of the panels of architects set up by the C.P.R.E. in conjunction with the Royal Institute of British Architects are available for their use.

EXAMPLES OF RECONDITIONING

The cottages shown are typical of hundreds throughout Wiltshire and other counties, being built of rough stone, brick, chalk stone or half timbering according to the locality, and thatched or tiled. The accommodation consisted of one main living-room with a general storeroom-cum-larder, out of which the staircase rose to the floor above. The pattern was repeated upstairs with a landing forming one bedroom, and giving access to the main bedroom. Commonly there was no back door, and the front door opened directly into the living-room. The bedrooms were very low and the windows small.

The original plan of the block of four cottages (Figs. 1 and 2) showed a usual arrangement; the rear wall facing south was occupied by a long thatched lean-to which formed the wash-houses and fuel stores. The plan and photographs show how the reconditioning was accomplished without losing the traditional



4.—A SINGLE COTTAGE AFTER RECONDITIONING
Architects for the reconditioning of all the cottages shown: Rudman and Edwards, Chippenham

character of the group. The centre portion facing the road remains unaltered except for the changing over of the front door and the window of the store to form a separate hall, and additions have been made at each end and in the centre at the back to bring the accommodation of each cottage up to modern standards. The two end cottages have a parlour, living-room, larder, combined washhouse-bathroom (where the wash boiler is used to heat the water for the bath into which it runs through the hot tap of the bath), outside fuel store and e.c., while on the first floor there are three bedrooms. The centre cottages have similar accommodation, except that the bathroom is upstairs and the hot water is raised to the bath by a semi-rotary pump, and there are two bedrooms only.

The pair of cottages (Fig. 3) were originally thatched, but the thatch had been covered with galvanised sheeting. Here again the accommodation has been improved from the original four rooms to modern requirements and advantage taken of the south aspect. The original staircases remain, and the old stone paved floors were replaced with wood block flooring; incidentally the floors were lowered slightly to gain headroom.

In the single cottage (Fig. 4) the original building has been very little altered, but an addition formed to contain a hall and parlour, while a larder was constructed on the site of the original back porch. This is now a two-bedroomed cottage, but the first-floor plan will show that a third bedroom could have been made over the parlour with little trouble.

PRACTICAL POLITICS

From a consideration of individual possibilities we return to the practical problems of labour and material. From a national point of view the economic advantages of local concentration on reconditioning in rural areas are as evident as the agricultural and social needs such a concentration alone can satisfy in the

time at our disposal. The Minister of Works in the pre-Dissolution Housing debate declared that, with the release of building workers beginning, permanent house building could now be restarted. "The necessary instructions have been issued. The flag has been dropped and the housing race is on." A moment later, however, he was talking of "a vast production problem which raises in an acute form the same difficulties which were encountered in the early stages of munitions production," and declaring that stages of further preparation, of small-scale jerky production "invariably behind the timetable," and of every kind of growing pain, had still to be experienced in the national building effort. The more reason obviously why first things should be put first, and a start made where materials and labour can quickly be made

available, and where the effect will not only be rapid, but serve to grease the national effort as a whole.

RURAL BUILDERS' NEEDS

In a debate last December country members discussing this very question implored the Government not merely to point out the difficulties facing their general housing programme and then stand by with folded hands. At that time there was complete agreement that the bulk of mobile building labour should be concentrated on tasks of restoration. But to-day the situation of the rural builder everywhere justifies the plea that the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Works should be compelled to play fair with him now that demobilisation has begun. His key men should quickly be returned to the small builder, so that his nucleus

of immobile labour can be built up again into a compact and efficient unit.

We have seen that the newly formed Housing Committees already have an obvious place in the local disposal of their labour force for reconditioning work. With goodwill on the part of the Ministries concerned their success becomes a matter largely of skilful administration. That goodwill, and the necessary temporary priorities both in materials and labour, are bound to be forthcoming the moment this Government or its successor recognises the situation and acknowledges that such action is inevitable by the simple decision to pass Mr. Willink's Housing (Rural Workers) Amendment Bill.

The first article on this subject appeared in the issue of July 13.

CORRESPONDENCE

THE WITLEY COURT MACHINE

SIR,—Being a Worcestershire man, I was much interested in Christopher Hussey's article on Witley Court in your issue of June 15. But did Mr. Hussey see the machinery which supplied the water for the fountains he describes? If not, he really should go again and look at it and describe it in your paper. Deep in a steep-sided dell, so overgrown with greenery that one can scarcely find it, one comes upon a ramshackle building. On entering, one beholds the machine (surely contemporary with the fountains themselves) and is thrilled and horrified.

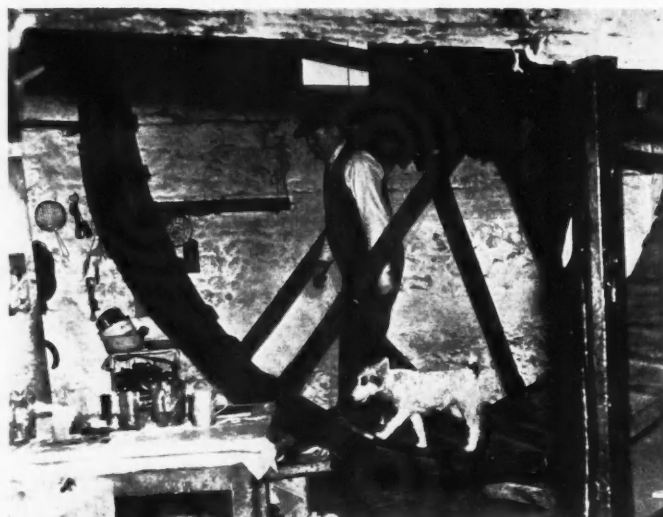
If the ruins of the house suggest Piranesi's *Vedute di Roma*, here in the pumping-house, to complete the picture, are the *Carceri*. Huge wheels, larger than one can take in at a view, ropes, chains, hooks, bars, spikes, crumbling walls and shafts of light amid the darkness, all are there. I do not think Mr. Hussey would be disappointed.—M. J. GIBBON (Captain), G.S.I. (C), H.Q. 21 Army Group, B.L.A.

RECREATION AND LANDSCAPE

SIR,—I have read with interest the article *Recreation and Landscape* by Mr. L. Gordon Hales. We of the Caravan Club have admired his energetic campaign for cleaning up the countryside, and have had discussions with him on the control of movable dwellings. No one is more anxious than the Caravan Club that the unsightly and often insanitary shacks, old bus bodies and pseudo-caravans, such as those which illustrate your article, should be controlled, firstly because we are country lovers, secondly because these things unfairly but understandably damage real caravanners.

In our view and experience, however, the existing licensing system for England and Wales is quite adequate to control *bona fide* caravanning and camping. Where it has failed the cause is partly that certain local authorities have neglected their duties and have not used these powers, but mostly because these shacks have unjustifiably been allowed to claim the status of movable dwellings. Actually they are nothing of the kind, even if some of them have wheels. They are not readily movable and they are not intended to move. On any common-sense view, they are temporary buildings, and the courts have on occasion judged them to be such. The Legislature, if the Minister lacks the power, should confirm their classification as temporary buildings, and thus remove the necessity for slow and costly court proceedings.

If I wish to erect a hut to house my car, it has to conform to the by-laws for temporary buildings, but, if



SALLY AND HER MASTER ON THE TREADMILL

See letter: A Beneficent Treadmill

I wish to house my family in it, it is allowed to dodge that control and to masquerade as a movable dwelling. That is sheer lunacy, but the remedy is to correct the classification, not to penalise the class into which the shacks have crept.

A responsible majority often has to suffer for the sins of an irresponsible minority, and legislation often has to be based on the worst conditions which may be found, but real caravanners and campers should not be asked to accept still stricter control because of the sins of people who are not caravanners at all, but squatters occupying sub-standard houses.—W. N. C. WHITEMAN (Public Relations Officer), Caravan Club of Great Britain and Ireland, 24, Store Street, London, W.C.1.

MEANS OF CONTROL

SIR,—The recent articles dealing with the problems of town and country planning have been a source of considerable interest. In some cases, however, the new powers conferred by the Town and Country Planning (Interim Development) Act, 1943, appear to have been overlooked by the writers. This omission is noticeable in the article by Mr. L. Gordon Hales, *Recreation and Landscape*, in which he forecasts that the serious abuses created by shacks and caravans may continue if the present methods of control are not amended and extended.

Although the control of the erection of shacks and caravans may be insufficient under the model by-laws, the development and use of land is now adequately controlled by the existence of the Town and Country Planning (Interim Development) Act,

1943. If any land is used for camping in a manner otherwise than in accordance with the terms of an Interim Development Permission, the Interim Development Authority may remove or pull down the building or, where the development consists of any use of the land, prohibit that use, and where necessary reinstate the land.

An Interim Development Authority pursuing a vigorous administrative policy should, therefore, experience no difficulty in controlling any development of land since the coming into operation of the Town and Country Planning (Interim Development) Act, 1943 on July 22, 1943.—S. H. BAKER, 22, Oldfield Crescent, Southwick, Sussex.

COWS AND DOUBLE SUMMER TIME

SIR,—Amusing as J. D. U. W. found the remarks related in his letter concerning Double Summer time, it is not readily realised how much Double Summer time does affect milking cows.

During that part of the Summer when the grass is drying off, the cows are brought in for early milking at a time when they would normally be grazing, while the grass is still wet with dew.

When they are turned out again the grass is dry and the dew gone. Consequently they have to feed in the heat of the day, instead of being able to settle down, chew the cud, and prepare for the next milking.—DONALD LAWES, *Hisbeers, Buckland St. Mary, Chard, Somerset*.

A BENEFICENT TREADMILL

SIR,—In view of the sordid and tragic associations of the prison treadmill it is possible that your readers may like to see this photograph of such an appliance used for a happier purpose. This primitive method of drawing water is still in use at the Fox and Hounds Inn at Beauworth, Alresford, Hampshire, after nearly 800 years. Mr. Frederick W. Hoar, the present landlord, has been in charge for the past 32 years, and the licence has been in the family for almost a century.

The well is over 300 feet deep, and is operated by the treadmill which draws an 18-gallon barrel of crystal clear water in approximately 10 minutes. It has been drawn the full depth in 6½ minutes for a wager. The landlord is kept busy demonstrating the treadmill to his many customers who come from miles around to see it. He and his dog Sally are operating the treadmill in my picture.—R. J. HANNAN (Sgt.), *Lasham, Hampshire*.

SWEET POTATOES

SIR,—Major Jarvis's notes about sweet corn remind me of another fine vegetable which is highly esteemed on the other side of the Atlantic, but practically unknown here. I allude to the sweet potato. When I lived in Virginia they were served baked at most meals and very succulent they were. The flesh varied in colour from a light yellow to a deep orange and the flavour rather resembled that of a roast chestnut.

Can any reader inform me whether attempts have been made to grow sweet potatoes in this country, and if so, with what success? They would form a welcome addition to our diet, particularly as they have a high sugar content. Alternatively have serious attempts been made to import the vegetable and what was the result?—R. SHAW ADAMS, *Jesmond Collage, Newcastle upon Tyne*.

THE ARTIST AND SPORT

SIR,—I was interested to read Mr. Edward Syer's letter about representations of hawking. I think he refers to the statue by G. F. Watts of Hugh Lupus and I remember noticing that the hawk was on the wrong hand.

There are two pictures in the Watts Gallery which make the same mistake in illustrating falconry. It will, no doubt, be pointed out that this makes no difference to the artistic merit of the pictures but it is always slightly irritating to those who happen to be aware of the mistake. If one looks at the illustrations in old books on sporting subjects I think one will seldom see an error of this kind. The subject was not only seen but understood by the artists before the Impressionists. An Impressionist (being interested in the effects of light on the object) requires a model, but if no model is available for a subject of violent action, as in hunting for

example, the design must arise from the artist's knowledge of the subject. In their anxiety to explain a shooting incident the old artists often put the bird so near the muzzle that it would be blown to pieces, and fishing lines are sometimes painted as thick as cords. An odd manner of holding a fishing rod is perhaps the commonest mistake in sporting pictures. The curiously awkward way of holding the old guns, with the left arm bent and the hands close together, was I believe correct. Perhaps your readers would know.—R. W. ALSTON, *The*

corner of old Lands along the Peat Moor Southward and so along a ditch leadeth up beyond Bordon Lodge so far or thereabouts as many ancient people have reported as the Lord can lay his line three times and throw his horn." (The lord referred to was the owner of the ground against the said Peat Moor.)

It is this laying of the line and the throwing of the horn that I need information about, e.g. what length or distance did they imply?—A. G. WADE (Major), *Ash Cottage, Bentley, Hampshire.*

A CURE FOR EGG-EATING HENS

SIR,—I sympathise with Major Jarvis on the execution of his egg-eating fowl. Having tried mustard eggs, and a very inconvenient egg-trapping device, I was told of a certain cure, viz., an egg filled with sawdust into which is poured a few teaspoonfuls of ordinary household ammonia. I felt that a hen would certainly be considerably shocked by this device, and tried it. An instant success and a complete cure!

I have passed the idea to several friends with the same result. I hope your readers will try it before killing valuable layers, and I should be very interested to hear the results.—F. C. SMALLWOOD, 44, *Pereira Road, Harborne, Birmingham.*

THE COMMUNAL BAKE-HOUSE

SIR,—In a recent issue you published a letter from P. H. L., Pinner, Middlesex, about a communal kitchen; he tells us that the bakery in the photograph is 90 years old. About the year 1875 my sister and I with our nurse went to stay at a farm in the village of Rothersthorpe (called by the villagers Thrup). It is near Daventry, and there all the bread, cakes, pies, etc., were sent to the village bakery,

there being no means of baking at the farm, where the only cooking was done at the open hearth.

It would be interesting to know if this custom was general at that time, also when such wall ovens came into use, as are found in old houses in Derbyshire and Norfolk.—MARY E. HODSON, *Bradbourne Hall, Ashbourne, Derbyshire.*

SIR,—A correspondent recently described a communal bake-house or kitchen in the village of Papworth St. Agnes, Cambridgeshire, and a photograph of the building was given. I believe that many years ago a communal kitchen also existed in the small village of Whatcote, Warwickshire. Other examples would be of interest.—G. S. HEWINS (Rev.), *The Rectory, Exhall, Alcester, Warwickshire.*

A NATIVE PLANT

SIR,—I send you a photograph of the fly orchis, photographed in Westmorland in its natural surroundings. I do not think that it is at all a common plant and your readers may be glad to see it.—J. H. COOKSON, *Kendal, Westmorland.*

[The fly orchis, *Ophrys mucifera*, is one of our delightful natives, though far more frequently found on the western side of England than on the east. It grows on chalky downs and often on the borders of fields, though

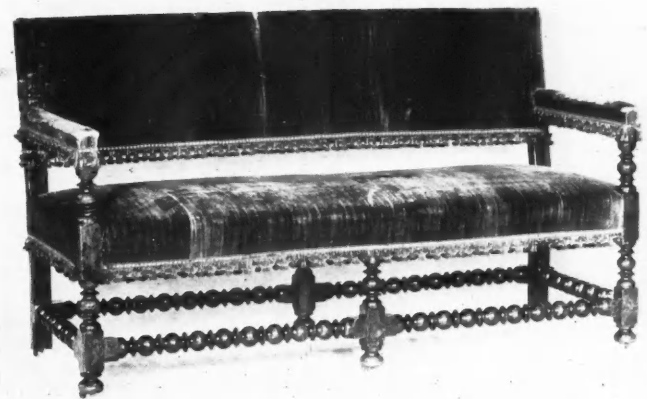


A TYPICAL PLANT OF FLY ORCHIS

See letter: A Native Plant

Trust intends to furnish some of the rooms, and gradually to establish there a country museum, somewhat on the lines of Temple Newsam. In the past a tour of the empty rooms has been a depressing experience for visitors. We hope to make it of lively interest. We are inviting the offer of gifts or loans of suitable furniture, carpets and *objets d'art*, restricting our invitation at present to pieces made before the year 1700.

The gardens will also be a feature



CROMWELLIAN WALNUT SETTEE, OFFERED AS A GIFT BY MR. FRANCIS MALLETT

See letter: The Future of Montacute

infrequently it is found on rough chalky banks. The maroon-purple of the lip with its slaty blotch and two narrow segments at the apex shows up particularly against its yellowish green sepals and does really remind one of the house-fly. This wild orchis does not seem to do well if one tries to cultivate it, and the illustration shows a typical plant in Westmorland, probably as far north as it is ever found.—ED.]

THE FUTURE OF MONTACUTE

From the Marquess of Zetland.

SIR,—You readers may be interested in the National Trust's plans for the use of Montacute House, Somerset, which were first made public in my letter to *The Times* on April 11, 1945.

As soon as Montacute is released from its war-time uses, the National

Trust intends to furnish some of the rooms, and gradually to establish there a country museum, somewhat on the lines of Temple Newsam. In the past a tour of the empty rooms has been a depressing experience for visitors. We hope to make it of lively interest. We are inviting the offer of gifts or loans of suitable furniture, carpets and *objets d'art*, restricting our invitation at present to pieces made before the year 1700.

The response to my letter has so far been most satisfactory. Several generous offers of beautiful pieces have come from private owners. (Some of these are here shown.) We have also been grateful for the keen support of the Victoria and Albert Museum, the National Art Collections Fund and the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. The opportunity to have fine pieces well shown and preserved in this setting should, I feel, attract still more owners of really first-class specimens, and in this hope I appeal to your readers.

If, at a later date, a similar scheme



ONE OF SIX WILLIAM AND MARY WALNUT ARMCHAIRS, FORMERLY AT MONTACUTE, OFFERED ON LOAN BY COMMANDER H. PHELIPS

See letter: The Future of Montacute

Watts Gallery, Compton, Guildford, Surrey.

THROWING THE HORN

SIR,—In a survey of Broxhead Common, adjoining Wolmere Forest, Hampshire, dated 1635 is a reference to the bounds of the Common as follows: "The Common of Broxhead extends itself from the



ELIZABETHAN BEDSTEAD LOANED TO MONTACUTE BY MR. J. C. B. GAMLEN

See letter: The Future of Montacute

is adopted at other houses held by the Trust, gifts would be regarded as being interchangeable as between the houses, so as to secure the best possible setting and variety of interest for visitors.

Letters on the subject should be addressed, if possible enclosing a photograph, to The Secretary, Montacute Committee, National Trust, 42, Queen Anne's Gate, S.W.1.—ZETLAND (Chairman of Executive Committee).

THE COCONUT HARVEST

SIR,—I send you two photographs, one of a West Indian coconut planta-



THE WEST INDIAN KNOCKS THE NUTS DOWN

See letter: The Coconut Harvest

tion, the other of a man working on a plantation in Nigeria. The contrast in methods of harvesting is interesting: the African climbs like a monkey, with the help of a stout rope with which he ties himself to the tree he wants to climb. On the other hand, in the West Indies the nuts are fetched down by means of long poles.—M. L., London, N.W.5.

FLASH

SIR,—Flash village, of which you recently published a photograph, is just in Staffordshire and close by are the boundaries of Cheshire and Derbyshire.

Locally, the story goes that, as the police of one county approached the village, the "flash money" makers, on the word from their spies, moved over to another county and so avoided arrest.—B. DERBYSHIRE (Major), The Hollies, Buxton, Derbyshire.

HENRY KEENE AND JOHN ESSEX

SIR,—I have read with great interest the letters in COUNTRY LIFE from your correspondents Mr. W. J. Hemp, Mr. H. M. Colvin, Mr. Edmund Esdaile, Mr. W. G. Hiscock, of Christ Church, Oxford, and Professor Constantia Maxwell, of Trinity College, Dublin, on Henry Keene, the subject of my article of March 30; also the valuable editorial notes which you have added to several of them.

I was especially interested in Mr. Colvin's discovery that George Mercer—shown in the conversation piece in High Wycombe Guildhall, pointing to the architectural plan spread out before Henry Keene upon the table—was Master of the Masons' Company in 1773, and that Thomas Gayfer, the master mason of Westminster Abbey, seen in the forefront of the picture, filled the same office in

1763; also in Mr. Esdaile's identification of two of the figures in the background—Ben Carter and J. Pratt—with a carver and a bricklayer of those names who are recorded as having worked about this time at Romsey Abbey and St. Olave's, Southwark, respectively.

There are other points raised by your correspondents on which I would like to comment, but I must confine myself to an observation of Mr. Colvin's that "Henry Keene must at least be bracketed with James Essex as the first professional man of the eighteenth century to make Gothic architecture his study and practice."

James Essex, son of a carpenter and joiner, was born in 1722 at Cambridge, and died there in 1784. While Oxford was the scene of Keene's principal activities, Essex, his senior by four years, practised chiefly at Cambridge. Their extensive work at both Universities was in the classical idiom of the day, save for Keene's decoration of the Hall of University College, Oxford, in 1766, and Essex's panel work and stone canopies of 1771 at the east end of King's College, Cambridge—both in the Gothic manner.

Outside Oxford, Keene's Gothic essays can still be seen, though in a damaged state at Hartwell Church, Buckinghamshire, and the Vandalian Tower at Uppark, Sussex. In James Essex, however, we have a far more learned exponent of the Gothic style, as his alterations to the east front and lantern of Ely between 1757 and 1762, and the battlements and four spires with which he crowned the central tower of Lincoln in 1775, bear witness. "His drawings and manuscripts in the British Museum," says J. W. Clarke (joint author with Robert Willis of the *Architectural History of the University and Colleges of Cambridge*), "show how carefully and systematically he attempted to study the principles of Gothic architecture"; while his published writings prove him to have been "the earliest architectural historian in the modern sense of the

word." "James Essex," Sir Kenneth Clark observes in *The Gothic Revival*, "was the first professional architect to treat Gothic seriously, and if some day the Gothic revival is studied in detail we may find that Essex was an important figure in English architecture."

Robert Pyle's conversation piece, with its portraits of Keene, Gayfer and others was, alas, burnt, as I said, in the fire at Buxted Park in 1940, but there is fortunately preserved, among the Wyatt collection in the Museum at Worthing, a striking portrait of James Essex in a conversation piece painted about 1780 by the great silhouettist, Francis Torond. The architect is shown with a pair of dividers in his hand. His wife, facing him, is feeding her pet squirrel, a nut in one hand and a small mug in the other. Behind her their friend, the attractive, millicent Hammond, exquisitely dressed and with a tall decorative headdress, is seated working at a frame upon a tripod stand.

The work of Torond, "the supreme master of his art," as Mr. Sacheverell Sitwell styles him, is very rare. Many fine examples acquired by Captain Desmond Coke from a descendant of the artist were destroyed by fire in 1919. Only five—two illustrated in Mr. Sitwell's *Conversation Pieces* (1936) and three in Mrs. Nevill Jackson's *Silhouette Notes and Dictionary* (1938)—were known, before the discovery of this example. These conversation pieces of Torond in silhouette "are comparable," says Mr. Sitwell, "to a beautiful stage scene, prolonged a miracle in time and to be closed perhaps by the falling of the curtain."—H. CLIFFORD SMITH, Highclere, near Newbury, Berkshire.

A SEA-CAT

SIR,—Speaking of swimming cats, until recently we harboured on board a grey tom of hideous aspect, a typical dockside cat.

It was shut in the wardroom one night to catch rats.

Not long after, the officer on watch on the quarter-deck was surprised to see it emerge from the water



THE AFRICAN CLIMBS LIKE A MONKEY

See letter: The Coconut Harvest

and walk up the gangway. It must have leapt through the porthole and swum about twenty yards. It failed to salute the quarter-deck.—W. G. POLLARD (Chaplain, R.N.V.R.), H.M.S. Phoebe.

THE SHORTAGE OF SWALLOWS

SIR,—I have, like your correspondent, C. M. B., noticed a shortage of swallows and martins this season, though not of swifts, which are building as usual under the stone tiles.

I do not think the noise of aeroplanes and lorries explains this shortage, as there are two aerodromes in this neighbourhood, which are now less busy than for the last five years.—R. W. SKIRVING, Lawns, Shilton, Oxfordshire.

SIR,—In reply to C. M. B., the numbers of swallows, martins and swifts depends upon whether their food supplies are plentiful or not. When, for any reason, there is a scarcity of flies in a district, these birds go elsewhere.

Swallows nest inside old farm buildings, outhouses, etc. Repairs to these will often drive the birds from the neighbourhood.—P. G. TILLARD, Taunton, Somerset.



JAMES ESSEX, F.S.A., AND HIS FAMILY. SILHOUETTE BY FRANCIS TOROND. CIRCA 1780

See letter: Henry Keene and John Essex

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FARMING NOTES

THE TIME FOR LIMING

ONCE again, and possibly for the last time, there is an additional subsidy on lime that farmers take between June and September. The subsidy at the moment is 60 per cent. instead of 50 per cent. of the cost of the lime delivered on the farm. It is a convenient time just now between hay and corn harvest to get lime out on to grass, permanent and temporary. Grass is the chief source of calcium required for stock, particularly young animals making bone and dairy cows making milk. We do not realise soon enough how the lime is exhausted and many good leys fall back in production after the first or second year because the stock grazing has lowered the lime content of the soil below the standard needed for full growth of clovers and grasses. It costs nothing to get the district officer of the War Agricultural Committee to make a lime test. I do this each Summer for the fields that I suspect may be getting short of lime. I am sure it pays to keep this plant food in full supply, especially while the Government pays a generous part of the cost. One ton of ground lime to the acre is the usual dressing I give, but part of the farm runs shorter and needs two tons.

Binder Twine Permits

WE must I see go through the antics of the permit system for binder twine again this year. The rationing scheme is being continued and farmers should get application forms from their usual supplier and send them, completed, to the War Agricultural Committee. I suppose this permit scheme does ensure that everyone gets enough binder twine and no one too much, but it will be a relief when we can dispense with some of these forms.

Bigger Premiums for Boars

PREMIUM boars are to get bigger premiums. The grant payable on any boar purchased after May 1, 1945, will be half the purchase price or estimated value; the grant will be for twelve months with a maximum of £15, instead of £10. While pig numbers are still small it is most desirable that full use should be made of the good boars we have in the country, so that the expansion of breeding will be based on sound stock. A premium boar must be a good one. The standard required by the Ministry of Agriculture's livestock officers is rightly high. The purpose of the premium is, of course, to encourage the farmer who keeps a boar to keep a good one, and to hire him to the neighbours, so that his virtues are widespread. The service fee varies widely. I have heard of villages where they think more than 2s. 6d. an imposition, and there are other places where 7s. 6d. is the usual charge for the service of a premium boar.

In Praise of the Hedgehog

MR. HOWARD LANCUM, who knows all about wild animals and the good or harm they do to the farmer's crops and livestock, has written in *Agriculture*, the Ministry's journal, praising the hedgehog. Likeable, diffident and in some ways rather pathetic is the way he describes this nocturnal gentleman, who feeds on grubs, snails, slugs, frogs, woodlice and other unpleasant creatures. Occasionally he will take an egg or even a young chick, but Mr. Lancum thinks egg-stealing happens only when the egg is broken or cracked.

The hedgehog tucked away in the nest-box of a fowl house was, we are asked to believe, attracted

there by the prospects of comfortable shelter and not by the expectation of a feast. Since the Middle Ages the hedgehog is reputed to carry away apples and suck cows. Mr. Lancum is sceptical. Is any cow likely to say quietly while such a bunch of prickles is busy round one of the tenderest parts of her body? The stomach of the hedgehog holds about a fifth of a pint, so nothing less than an army of hedgehogs would account for some of the stories of cows being found sucked dry in the morning.

Late Haymaking

NOT until the second week in July did we and most of our neighbours make a real attack on the hay. For several weeks we had been fiddling around getting some cleared when we had two consecutive fine days, but there was no real hay-making weather in June. Over-mature by three weeks must be the verdict on much of the 1945 hay. The poor quality will, I am afraid, be reflected in next Winter's milk yields. The other feeds we have for our cows under war conditions are not highly nutritious and the quality of the hay counts more than ever. There will be plenty of roots to provide succulence next Winter. The mangolds are growing away strongly. It has been a tedious business keeping the weeds down. Root-hoeing when the ground is moist only makes half a job. We can hope that the rest of July and August will make up in sunshine the failings of May and June. Sun is wanted for the potatoes as well as the grain crops.

Scotland and Controls of Labour

SCOTLAND, I see, still goes on with her controls of agricultural labour which are considerably tighter than ours south of the Border. Farmers must obtain approval from the Ministry of Labour before engaging men other than for casual work. Permission must also be obtained before contracts of employment can be terminated by either farmers or farm-workers. Now there is a further rule that a farmer may not engage any man whose employment has not been properly terminated in legal fashion. No doubt there are some farmers in Scotland as in England who are not above taking on a man without worrying over-much about the circumstances in which he left his previous employment. Skilled men are so short that none of us can afford to be too particular about references.

Premiums for Goats

GOATS are in favour in Scotland. To encourage the breeding of milch goats the Department of Agriculture is offering grants for stud goats, amounting to one-third of the purchase price with a maximum of £9 in the case of registered stud goats and a maximum of £3 in the case of registered stud goats. These grants are available to approved committees or societies and also individual owners in districts where a society cannot be formed. The service fees to be charged must not exceed 6s. in respect of a registered goat and 4s. otherwise.

So far as I know, we have not such a premium goat scheme in England. There are premiums for bulls and boars. The boar scheme is only lately been renewed with big premiums. The bull scheme is well established and works well in areas like North Devon where there are a great many small breeders who cannot afford themselves to keep a good bull.

CINCINNATUS.

THE ESTATE MARKET

A £248,000 TOTAL

THE magnitude of many English landed estates is incidentally revealed by the fact that the sale of only outlying portions of the Norman Court domain, near East Grinstead, Sussex, yielded an aggregate of £248,000 in a three days' sale. Such are the changes that have taken place, and that are still in progress, that the possibilities of similarly large auctions become every year more rare. It may be that this is regrettable in some of its aspects, though the doughtiest upholders of long-standing traditions can perhaps find a certain amount of consolation in thinking how "break-up" sales of the Norman Court type spread the personal interest in landed property very widely and thereby provide a bulwark against arbitrary interference with and encroachments on the ownership of real estate.

To a great extent the same thing applies to house property in London and throughout the country, seeing, for example, the very substantial stake in realty now possessed by the hundreds of thousands of persons who have acquired a total or partial degree of ownership of the houses they occupy, thanks to the facilities afforded by building societies, not to speak of the millions of pounds advanced for the same purpose by insurance companies.

In considering this aspect of property two or three points stand out. How widespread whole or partial ownership stimulates an active defensive force for every class of investment, and how ownership compares with tenancy in regard to very diversified classes of real estate. The latter point is particularly prominent with reference to agricultural land. When the "break-up" movement of landed properties assumed unprecedented momentum, during and after 1914-18, farmers struggled for their holdings, and borrowed money from banks, insurance companies and other lenders, regardless of at least a couple of cautionary considerations: the rate of interest and the conditions attaching to the loans; and the fact that capital was required for the working and upkeep of farms.

SOME FARM PRICES

THERE were over 200 lots in the Norman Court auction, and it is safe to say that most of them were bought with funds which will not need to be supplemented by borrowing. The first lot was a pair of cottages for £900, then a couple of farms in West Tytherley realised £4,600, and another went at £1,900. Church Farm and some orchards in the same parish went for £6,600, and Stride Farm for £6,500. The would-be buyer who wished to make a detailed study of the items, whether they interested him personally or not, was faced at the outset with a stumbling-block in the shape of a demand for ten shillings for the volume of particulars. Warren Farm, Nether Wallop, went for £4,750, and £11,000 was bid and accepted for Buckholt Farm, in the parish of that name. Yet a larger amount topped the bidding for Church Farm, West Dean, £12,000, and an East Dean holding, Park Farm, at £9,250, was another notable lot. Tenants were successful in securing very many lots. The sale, by Messrs. Woolley and Wallis, at Salisbury, was on behalf of the late Washington M. G. Singer.

CORPORATIONS BUYING AND SELLING LAND

RIGHTLY the opinion has often been advanced in the Estate Market page of COUNTRY LIFE that the activities of perpetual corporations in the matter of buying or selling land were worth watching as a guide to tendencies. The reason is mainly

that such corporations command the advice of the chief estate agents, lawyers of eminence, and often of economists too, and that they take a long view of affairs. If anyone were to look at transactions in the last year or two for such guidance he might be puzzled, inasmuch as sales and purchases have tended to balance one another. On the whole, however, new acquisitions of landed property have predominated. If some Collegiate bodies, for example, have figured as vendors, it has sometimes been because the properties lay too far from the bulk of what their experts had to manage, or because prospective building value was high and the time to realise opportune, in view of all the talk about curtailment of the right of development. Large offers of agricultural land have been by no means restricted to those demands forced upon executors. Great landlords have parted with extensive freeholds. On the other hand, vast areas have been acquired by some holding corporations, and the Duchy of Lancaster is an instance. It has just added 1,712 acres, nine miles from Lancaster, to its long list of landed holdings. The property, remaining portions of the Winmarleigh estate, has been bought by the Duchy for £75,000. Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley acted for the trustees of the late Mr. Frank Reddaway. The rental value of the farms is approximately £2,725 a year.

AT HAMPTON COURT

VARIOUS kinds of institutions have to be accommodated to meet the growing and complex requirements of social service. Suitable quarters for assemblies of the very old and the very young are among what the County Councils now have to provide. Some recent public enquiries have suggested that in the more expensive rural residential districts the residents dread the advent of scores of children, partly because of the noise they make and the mischief they may do, and yet more because of fears that such an institution may depreciate high-class houses. It may be that the last-named probability is the main apprehension if some large mansion is selected for housing old people, but it exists, and in the case of Hampton Court, where the Middlesex County Council has just bought Hampton Court House, the tendency of public bodies to extend and alter buildings for communal use is to be remembered. Whatever else may be thought about the scheme one thing is clear, that a house in 10 acres of grounds, adjoining Bushey Park, should form a very pleasant retreat for the aged. A variety of safeguards will probably be set in motion if any building extensions out of character with the locality are proposed.

An immense amount of alteration to the interior of this historic old mansion will be necessary. Christopher Wren, who died at Hampton Court Green in 1723, is credited with the design of part of the house, which has a spacious ballroom and a fine galleried reception hall. Hampton Court House has a grotto in the grounds, a temple, and formal gardens, as well as shrubberies planned in what used to be called the "classical" style. The vendor is a client of Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley.

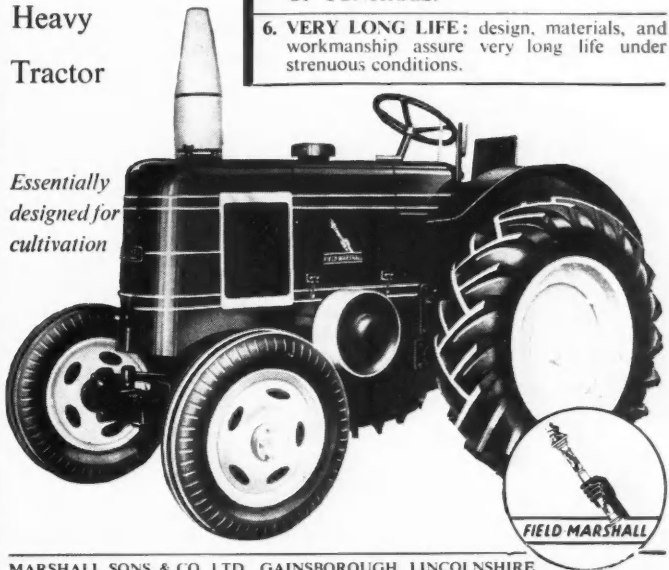
When Wolsey was seeking a country property he retained physicians to report on some of the villages near London, and they were unanimous in holding that Hampton Court was unrivalled for "salubrity." Certainly it is the fact that Hampton Court has always enjoyed a remarkable freedom from diseases that have in past centuries made life in London precarious and troublesome.

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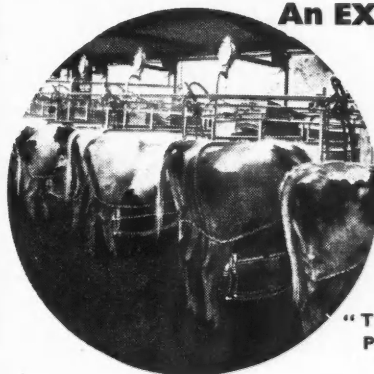
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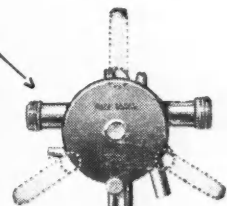
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NEW BOOKS

FORTY YEARS BACK

Reviews by HOWARD SPRING

LORD BERNERS continues in *A Distant Prospect* (Constable, 8s. 6d.) the story which he began in *First Childhood* and will continue in a further volume. The present book deals with his years at Eton.

Schooldays, whether at Eton or elsewhere, have been amply memorialised, and it is rare indeed to find anyone with a good word to say for them—to say, anyhow, for their success in imparting the learning which, one must suppose, is the end

not without pertinence to enquire why, while yet giving this, a great school should fail to give also those other endowments which she exists to provide.

Lord Berners admits that his premature removal from the school, because of poor health, puts him in a bad position to criticise what it did for his intellectual development, and further that "it would be difficult to say what sort of education would have been more suitable for a boy of my disposition." He does not personally

A DISTANT PROSPECT. By Lord Berners (Constable, 8s. 6d.)

RUDE FOREFATHERS. By Ursula Bloom (Macdonald, 10s. 6d.)

THE PROBLEM OF AUSTRIA. By E. J. Passant (Oxford University Press, 6d.)

for which schools were established. Happily, as the years go by, most human institutions take on an accretion of secondary and accidental, and occasionally wholly desirable, attributes, as a naked rock clothes itself with verdure.

FOR AND AGAINST

Thus, though Lord Berners is on the side of the great majority in telling us that Eton was not, scholastically, of importance to him, he is able to point to much that would have been detrimentally absent from his life had there been no Eton for him. "In so far as my education was concerned, I had learned nothing, less than nothing, a minus quantity. I had lost what little knowledge I had of foreign languages. In history, geography and science I had been confused rather than instructed. I left Eton with a distaste for the Classics, and, what was more serious, a distaste for work itself."

Against this is to be set the absorption of beauty from a region "steeped in the romance of by-gone centuries," and to this he pays the tribute of one evidently well fitted to understand how much this could mean. "I knew now how much I loved Eton, at all times, at all seasons; the summer sunshine on the playing-fields the bathing at Cuckoo Weir and Athens, the winter fogs and rain that had so often rescued me from football, the walls and cloisters mysterious in lamplight, the darkness of the lanes and passages as one returned in the dusk from outlying classrooms, and, to descend to more material things, the strawberries and cream in the sock-shops and the hot buns at Little Brown's in the mornings before early school. Eton was for me an Alma Mater beloved for her beauty more than for any other quality, and the memory of it was the most valuable of her gifts."

Impressions of so much loveliness that come back undimmed across half a century are much to have received from any institution; nevertheless, it would seem reasonable to remember that they are memories such as might visit any unprivileged child who had chanced to spend his early years in some enchanting part of the country. They have not, essentially, anything to do with Eton, but only with the beauty of a favoured spot; and it is

regret that he was not educated intensively early.

But one may pick up a few hints that lie about in the book. The method of teaching the Classics, the author says, was that "no effort was spared to make them as uninteresting and unprofitable as possible"—a grave state of affairs when the teaching of the Classics was more highly regarded than to-day. "Homer became tedious, Horace commonplace and Greek Tragedy a grammatical inferno." Only Arthur Benson, with whom he had not much to do, redeemed this state of things. Music and sketching were the boy's delights, but there seemed no thought of cherishing a personal inclination. Sketching "had to be done surreptitiously, as in those days it was a form of 'slacking' that aroused contempt and hostility." Moreover, the "public opinion" of the school was against serious work. "Saps" were despised, and sometimes even persecuted, and most of the masters seemed to think more highly of success in games than in work."

THE SHOCKING FRIEND

It says much for the strength of the author's convictions that, despite this general feeling against pursuits which he prized, he stuck to them and did much in both art and music. He had not only school opinion to defy but also the feeling of his mother. "She was willing to tolerate my gifts so long as they remained on an amateur level. But the thought of any son of hers becoming a professional artist filled her with horror."

The pages are enlivened with pictures of the author's schoolfellows, as well as his father, mother and formidable Evangelical grandmother who "looked like Savonarola masquerading as Betsy Trotwood."

There is a grand account of how a fellow-Etonian was taken home for a holiday visit that proved disastrous. The impact of his sceptical personality upon the author's mother, who was in all social matters of a rigid "correctness," makes a pretty comedy. To the young Marston both a fox and a foxhound had a tail, and his failure to perceive that one had a brush and the other a stern did not make things smooth. The author has written throughout with great charm, and, even when the moment comes of his

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perceiving the fundamental differences that lie between him and his mother, he preserves the "piety" that is the most attractive way of dealing with such relationships.

A FAMILY IN THE ROUGH

It is a way that does not commend itself to Miss Ursula Bloom, who sets out to tell us about her ancestors in *Rude Forefathers* (Macdonald, 10s. 6d.) The book is lively with the sprightly wooden liveliness of a marionette, and at times is intolerably facetious. "To make matters worse, Johnnie's activities having expanded, he had now completely forsaken the straight and narrow." There are dozens of sentences like that, with the knowing leer of a music-hall comedienne.

Miss Bloom has a good story to tell, and it could be wished that it had been told better. One chapter is entitled "No Lady Looks at her Parents," and the feeling that she herself has a feeling that she is being utterly ruthless, tearing away every rag of pretence, ruins the story. "Well, I'm going to look at my parents, and here's what they were like," is the impression one gets. A tender method would have sacrificed nothing.

Most of the ancestors here exposed to our regard are pretty average middle-class Victorian people, but a hint of romance creeps in with one of the Blooms, a parson at that, marrying the illegitimate daughter of a wealthy farmer and a gypsy girl. All the novels of the "caravan" school demand that gypsy blood should thereafter stir restlessly in Bloom veins, breaking out in generation after generation; but nothing of the sort happened. The farmer's gypsy child became a model parson's wife. Her father left her a large fortune, and his family, outraged at the thought of all this money going to a "by-blow," threw the matter into the Chancery Court. The parson threw his money after it in order to fight the case. "Unfortunately, when the suit was won eighty years on, there was nothing to come out of Chancery." Altogether a typical story of that once scandalous court.

This is the author's final summing up of her ancestry. "On either side of me the family tree spreads its lichened branches, but amongst them there is a goodly smattering of ancient lady, and tottery, spindle-legged old gent. They are a strange mixture, and surely one of the most horrible ordeals that come to one on one's wedding day. For only God could make a family tree."

AND AUSTRIA?

Mr. E. J. Passant has contributed to the Oxford Pamphlets on World Affairs *The Problem of Austria* (Oxford University Press, 6d.). He lays down at the beginning that three conditions must be fulfilled if a state is to remain healthy. Its people must desire to be independent of their neighbours. They must be sufficiently united in loyalty to the central authority to make its political system workable. They must be able to maintain by their economic activity a standard of living acceptable to themselves. It is in the light of these three propositions that he examines the problem of Austria.

It is instructive, to begin with, to study the maps provided and to contrast what is called Austria to-day with the great realm ruled over by Franz-Josef before the last war. "What is left—that is Austria," said Clemenceau when all the carving up

was going on; and what is left is a pitiful remnant, about one-eighth of the old Habsburg Empire. Even if Hungary is excluded from the comparison, there remains but one-quarter of the former Austria—a midget state with a dangerously swollen capital city.

Mr. Passant considers the Pan-German movement in relation to his proposition that a healthy people desires to remain separate, and shows how, even as long ago as 1882, a German-Nationalist Party with a violent Pan-German wing developed under Georg von Schoenerer.

"LITTLE" AUSTRIA

As for the second point, the author finds that "the 'little' Austria recognised by the Treaty of St. Germain never captured the imagination of many of its citizens in its republican-democratic form." If, after the present war, the Austrians are to give loyalty to their state, "profound changes in the political atmosphere of the country will be necessary." As for the third point—the importance of a stable and sufficient economy—one has but to turn back memory a year or two to recall the disruptive effect of the break-up of the monarchy.

Mr. Passant thinks that, with the end of the present war, and with the disappearance of the Nazi party, "the old Liberal idea of a federated Grossdeutschland, the ideal of many of the democrats of 1848, may live again." Possibly "nationalism itself may lose some of its emotional appeal in the future Europe." If it does not, and "so far as the military revival of Germany remains a possibility, the reappearance of the *Anschluss* idea would be an immediate danger signal to Europe. And if the second great contest between the nationalist forces of Europe leaves the force of nationalism as strong, or stronger, than ever, the purely negative policy of preventing a union of the Germans and German-Austrians in a single state is a necessary and elementary precaution for all other Europeans."

THIS CENTURY'S POETRY

THE best way to express the values of *Poems of Our Time 1900-1942* (Everyman Library, 3s.) and make the spirit of the anthology clear to anyone reading this review would be to quote the Foreword by Richard Church who, with M. M. Bozman, has chosen the contents. Since that is impossible here Mr. Church's argument must be epitomised. He maintains that "song, like prayer, is a mirror of experience" and that an anthology should re-distill what the poets have already distilled. He and his collaborator have, therefore, not ranked their chosen poems according to the "birthdays of their authors" but according to the moment in the century's history at which a particular poem was written. Looking at them thus they have found the poems of the last forty years to divide roughly into four sections or waves of different character each with "an organic unity moving through an emotional pattern so markedly that it has drawn the whole gamut of events into an almost meaningful shape. And after the event comes the commentary or song." This has proved a wise and deeply satisfying method of arrangement; such grouping has not only left unshaded but often enhanced the brightness of the jewels so set. All anthologies are open to questions but this one fulfils the aims set for it very satisfactorily and is a most valuable volume, small in size but of largest reach. S.

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LONGER SKIRTS and LOWER NECKLINES



PHOTOGRAPHS:
STUDIO BUCKLEY

THE many elegant clothes shown in the advanced collections for Autumn have great sophistication, and the dirndl type of "little girl" frock is well in the background. Skirts, generally, are a fraction longer and the most exciting ones are undoubtedly those that are looped or draped. Necklines are lower and the choker effects have largely disappeared, though the more tailored type of frock in jersey or tweed is very often shown with a round, flat neckline and a shoulder yoke so that twisted pearls, beads or a scarf can be worn close up to the throat. But even this type of frock tends to be cut out into a modest V or circle.

The first indications of the way fashion will go after the austerity rules are relaxed appear in the exotic Eastern flourishes on some of the draped and swathed skirts for afternoon and evening, and in the interesting detail and intricate folding on the necklines. There is no exaggerated padding on shoulders, no excessive fullness in skirts—not even

on the models shown for export—and the tight wasp waists of Paris cannot be repeated here with the corset situation in its present state. The exuberant Paris fashions have been adapted and restrained in the mid-season collections and the *couturières* are showing simple, wearable, intensely feminine clothes. There, as well, skirts are slightly longer and necklines lower. Fullness is placed in front of the skirts, either side, with the front left flat, a very flattering line. Underneath, the Parisienne wears a tight, short-boned Victorian corset, and over her dress a coat with a nipped waist and a full hemline to accommodate the fullish skirt of the dress.

The deep bertha or boat-shaped yokes on some of the London Winter dresses gives them a period look. They are gathered softly into these yokes and the fullness repeated on the skirts below tight inlet waistbands or tightly swathed cummerbunds. Cross-over bodices are sometimes shown with dolman sleeves, more often with tight plain sleeves that just ruche over the elbow. The frocks are made in plain rayon crêpes, in moss crêpes as resilient as pure silk,

(Left) Leaf-printed crêpe, aquamarine and white, with a cross-over bodice, low neckline and fullness in front of the skirt. Walpoles



(Right) Button-through Summer frock in hopsack rayon, corn coloured, and a wheelbarrow from the aluminium exhibition at Selfridges

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in fine woollens, in the crêpe that has just been added to the Moygashel Winter range and has a faint twist in the weave. "Airliner" is the name of an attractive rayon, fine and firm as a pre-war romaine. The very essence of these folded, gauged dresses is in the drapable qualities of the fabrics. The high toques and swathed turbans for this Winter demand the lower neckline and longer skirt to preserve the balance of their design.

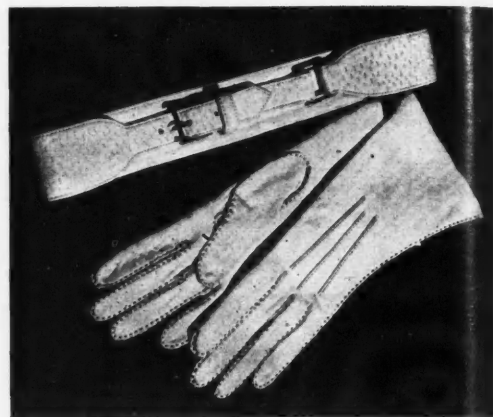
The first and foremost place in the

colour range belongs to the deep blue-purple of an iris. Pale orchid and parma violet mauves are charming and new for early Autumn; emerald and grass greens, russet brown, old gold, rose beige, crimson, vermilion and lacquer reds, all vibrant shades, make spectacular Winter dresses to set off the dark plain sleek town coats.

Side by side are shown some charming muted shades of green, stone and beige. There is a translucent pale green with a lot of blue in it, deeper sage greens incorporating a lot of yellow, warm stone beiges and mushroom browns. These are dress colours. For Winter coats, rich cocoa and coffee browns vie with black for first place. There are some glowing crimsons and blues and some dashing checked tweeds. The prettiest Winter suits I have seen have been in tweed in combinations of lavender blue and two browns, patterned in narrow fancy stripes.

(Left) Wide-brimmed halo in white st. aw worn right on the back of the head. Scotts

(Right) White accessories for a Summer frock, belt and hand-stitched gloves in peccary from Leathercraft



They are also made in mist blue and dusty pink. Dorville are making jersey cardigan suits looking like a thick knitted tweed in sophisticated subtle colours—a mole grey that has been absent from fashion for a long time, iris purple and cactus green. Lacquer red and some attractive muted beiges and greens are featured for the frocks.

The tendency is still for fullness to be placed in front of sports skirts, either as box pleats or as a panel of limp unpressed pleats, and for the necklines to show the base of the throat. Buttons are fancy, shaped into flowers, fruit, animals, old seals or coins; they look like bars of gold or chunks of silver, twists of copper—but they are all of them plastics. So, too, are the newest triangles to cover the head on a wet day, the new sponge bags, tablecloth, waterproof capes and coats. The surface is smooth and thick as a *civré* satin, the material opaque but with great clarity of colour.

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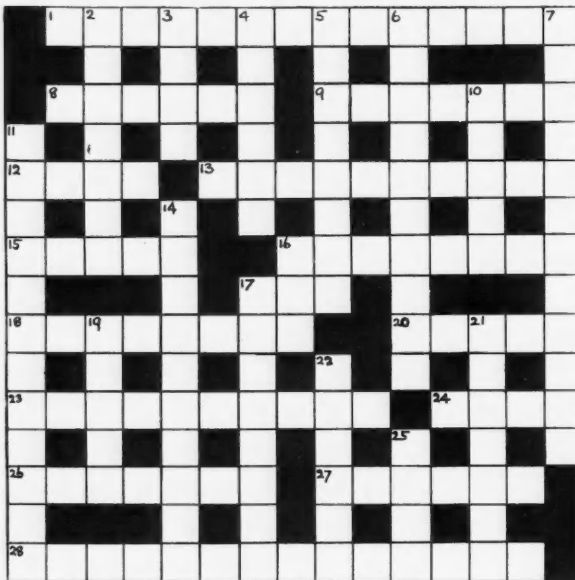
A NOBLE SCOTCH—Gentle as a lamb

OAS

CROSSWORD No. 808

Two guineas will be awarded for the first correct solution opened. Solutions (in a closed envelope) must reach "Crossword No. 808, COUNTRY LIFE, 2-10, Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2," not later than the first post on Thursday, July 26, 1945.

NOTE.—This Competition does not apply to the United States.



Name
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SOLUTION TO No. 807. The winner of this Crossword, the clues of which appeared in the issue of July 13, will be announced next week.

ACROSS.—1, Dark lady; 5, Barber; 9, Goodwill; 10, Stamps; 11, Elements; 12, Aslant; 14, Drawbridge; 18, Travelling; 22, Asking; 23, After all; 24, Grains; 25, Everyman; 26, Rudest; 27, Anthills. DOWN.—1, Dogger; 2, Rooted; 3, Lawyer; 4, Dilatorily; 6, Artistry; 7, Bombards; 8, Rosettes; 13, Swan of Avon; 15, Stranger; 16, Parkland; 17, Meanings; 19, Search; 20, Mammal; 21, Planes.

ACROSS.

1. But business letters don't come to these melodious conclusions! (9, 5)
8. The starchy muse (6)
9. About nothing, probably (4, 3)
12. Certainly it's close to one's ear (4)
13. A grim lynx (anagr.) (10)
15. Follow Susan for the most part (5)
16. Disparage (or feel small?) (8)
17. One toot foremost and the highwayman's in sight! (3)
18. Fondled (8)
20. Quite a new piece of fiction (5)
23. A race for the ship's freights? The smuggler does (3, 7)
24. Blemish (4)
26. "— my life with multitude of days!"
—Samuel Johnson (7)
27. A Persian despot may appear as part (6)
28. Inadvisable pastime for glasshouse dwellers (8, 6)

DOWN.

2. Within the highways? (7)
3. Number of worthies (4)
4. Try to go round the ash tree (6)
5. Noticed a mark in the reed? (8)
6. A battle is arranged by these (10)
7. Narrators aren't necessarily liars! (12)
10. Talk of thieves! (5)
11. Running between (12)
14. The wife of Cock Robin's slayer (3, 7)
16. Head of a badger (3)
17. "The Owl and the Pussy-Cat went to sea
In a beautiful ——— boat."
—Edward Lear (3)
19. Learn confusedly (5)
21. Poetical address for Crabbe? (7)
22. Stops (6)
25. He turns up in every motto (4)

The winner of Crossword No. 806 is

P.O. Wren M. S. Hyslop,
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London, W.13.

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